

## New Words for Worship Part 4

This handout outlines some more of the changes to the texts of the Mass in the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the English translation of Roman Missal.

The first and most notable change in the **Nicene Creed** in the revised *Missal* translation is a shift from the use of the first person plural ‘we’ to the singular ‘I’. The translators here have followed a directive in the 2001 rules for vernacular translation of the Roman liturgy which stipulates: “The Creed is to be translated according to the precise wording that the tradition of the Latin Church has bestowed upon it, including the use of the first person singular.”

Other alterations in the wording include:

Present Text	New Translation
all that is, seen and unseen	all things visible and invisible
only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father	the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages
of one Being with the Father	consubstantial with the Father
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man	and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man
We acknowledge one baptism	I confess one baptism
We look for the resurrection of the dead	and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead

The most notable aspect of the revised translation of the **Apostles’ Creed** is the change from ‘**He descended to the dead**’ to ‘**He descended into hell**’. The meaning of the latter is explained in the Catechism: “By the expression ‘He descended into hell’, the Apostles’ Creed confesses that Jesus did really die and through his death for us conquered death and the devil ‘who has the power of death’” (*Heb 2:14*). [#636]

There is a change in the ‘*Blessed are you ...*’ prayers during the *Preparation of the Gifts*. ‘**Through your goodness we have this bread/wine to offer**’ becomes ‘**for through your goodness we have received the bread/wine we offer you**’.

In the prayer over the bread, ‘**which earth has given and human hands have made**’ becomes ‘**fruit of the earth and work of human hands**’, a nice parallel with ‘**fruit of the vine and work of human hands**’ over the chalice in both the present and revised translations.