

From the Desk

The phrase that certainly endured most in people's minds from the National Gathering of Representatives in Liturgy in Perth last February was "...the train is leaving the station..."

Well, in recent days the announcement came in Rome that the recognitio has been given to the English translation of the third Latin edition of the Roman Missal. We now know roughly at what point departure time is!

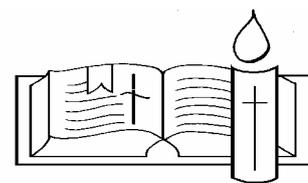
To continue the analogy we now need to ensure that the passengers and crew on the train are well prepared for the journey. In Perth there was plenty of opportunity to identify what the issues will be for clergy and assemblies, and also the concerns of liturgical ministers across the wide range of lay liturgical assistants.

To that end the National Liturgical Council and a number of consultants will gather in Melbourne at the end of June to consider possible models for the roll out of the Missal and also to scope the resources that will need to be available in Australia to support the roll out.

Correspondents of Ad Libitum will know that for several years I have been working with an international team of liturgical scholars to produce the interactive DVD 'Become One Body, One Spirit in Christ.'

Even in its incomplete form wherever I have gone around Australia the resource is being met with great enthusiasm, chiefly because it aims to provide a comprehensive catechesis on the Eucharist as well as address questions around the new translation.

Whilst it will not be the sole answer for everyone's needs, it will provide the bedrock upon which other resources can be developed that will endeavour to make the implementation of the Missal as smooth as possible. Having said all that we do face still some face many challenges. I would identify the following as being the most pressing.



Music

Because there is a new translation of the Order of Mass we will now have the task of introducing new musical settings to the Mass. Whilst there are some very fine existing settings that have served the Church well (and many of these are being re-written) there are other settings still in use that we will be glad not to hear any longer!

The National Liturgical Music Board over twelve months ago called for submissions of new settings to be lodged by 31 December, 2009. Over sixty compositions of varying styles were received and these are now being assessed by the independent panel of assessors. Their report will be in the hands of the Board by the end of June.

The NLMB has also now published the provisional list of approved songs and hymns for liturgical use (as endorsed by the Bishop's Conference in May 2009) and this can be accessed through the Bishops Commission for Liturgy site on the ACBC webpage.

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Special points of interest:

- † Missal Publication & Implementation
- † Blessed Mary MacKillop Feast & Canonisation
- † National Liturgical Art & Architecture Board
- † National Liturgical Music Board
- † National Gathering of Representatives in Liturgy
- † 'Become One Body One Spirit in Christ' Resource

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National Liturgical Council Meeting — Perth February 4, 2010

Report from the meeting of the National Liturgical Council held in Perth on February 4, 2010

The NLC met prior to the Biannual Gathering of National Representatives in Liturgy held in Perth at the Novotel Langley on Thursday 4 February, 2010.

Present: Archbishop Mark Coleridge (Chairman); Archbishop Denis Hart; Very Rev Paul Bird CSsR; Dr Clare Johnson; Rev Brian Nichols; Mrs Jenny O'Brien; Rev Patrick O'Regan; Sr Ursula O'Rourke SGS; Mr Paul Taylor; Rev Christopher Willcock SJ; Rev Peter Williams.

Membership changes

The Chairman welcomed three new members to the Council: Dr Clare Johnson (ACU Sydney); Rev Brian Nichols (Administrator of St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart); and Mr Paul Taylor (Archbishop's Office for Evangelization, Melbourne).

The Chairman acknowledge the considerable contribution of retiring members of the Council, Rev David Orr OSB and Sr Kerry Willison RSM.

The Chairman also acknowledge that due to the appointment of Bishop Anthony Fisher OP as third Bishop of Parramatta, Bishop Kevin Manning had subsequently retired and his term as a member of the Bishops Commission and the National Liturgical Council had come to an end. The Chairman noted that Bishop Manning had served not only as a member of the Commission and Council but had also been the Chairman for a number of years. Bishop Manning continues as a Consultant to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

Publication of the Missal

The ACBC had considered expressions of interest submitted by publishers for the new English translation of the Missal. As Australia is collaborating with the Conferences of England & Wales and Scotland, after due consideration the Conference approved that the Catholic Truth Society based in London be nominated as the publishers of the Missal for Australia.

Missal Implementation

The Council noted that the international resource produced by the Leeds Group on behalf of ICEL was in the final stages of completion. It is envisaged that the resource 'Become One Body, One Spirit in Christ' will be available by mid' year. This will be dependent on the recognitio as the resource uses a number of texts from the proposed translation and if these are subject to change by the Congregation then further editing work will need to be undertaken.

The National Missal Implementation Team for Australia has also functioned as a reference group for the international resource. A number of Dioceses around Australia have already engaged both local and international speakers to address clergy, pastoral associates, educators, lay liturgical ministers and others in preparation for the introduction of the new translation.

ICPEL

The copyright issues relating to the use of NRSV translation of the Bible have now been resolved. The Commission is now in consultation with the Congregation in Rome to determine that parameters that will apply in using the NRSV for the proposed new version of the Lectionary.

The National Liturgical Architecture & Art Board

The Council noted that the ACBC had now approved the Statutes and names were now under consideration for appointment to the new Board. This Board will act as an advisory body to individual Bishops (upon request) and also to the Conference as a whole.

National Liturgical Music Board

The Executive Secretary of the Board, Bernard Kirkpatrick made a presentation to the Council of the work of the Board in compiling the list of approved songs and hymns for use in liturgical celebrations. The list (which has provisional approval pending a response from the Congregation in Rome) will be placed on the website of the Bishops Commission for Liturgy. The Secretary also reported on the submissions for new Mass settings to accompany the new translation of the Ordinary of the Mass.

From the list of hymns and songs for liturgical use, the NLMB will construct a shorter list that will form the basis for a new music resource to be published by the Bishops conference. The first part of this new resource will not only contain hymns and songs but Mass settings for the new translation of the Missal. Part 2 of the resource will contain Lectionary music and other ritual music as new editions and texts are produced and approved.

Proposed NLC Website

Cathy Murrowood presented a comprehensive proposal for the establishment of a specific website for the National Liturgical Council. This site would serve as one of the principal tools in the process of Missal implementation and will assist parishes and liturgical offices in the provision and sharing of resources. The proposal was referred to the Bishops Commission for Liturgy for further analysis and costing.



National Gathering of Representative in Liturgy: Perth February 4 - 7, 2010

The Conference was held at the Novotel Langley in Perth commencing in the evening of 4 February, 2010 and concluding at lunch on 7 February, 2010; following the main Sunday Mass in St Mary's Cathedral.

The major focus of the conference was the forthcoming new translation of the Missal.

On the first evening Sr Carmel Pilcher RSJ looked at the liturgical 'landscape' across the Church in Australia.

The presenters were over the remainder of the weekend were:

Archbishop Mark Coleridge - (keynote address)

Monsignor Bruce Harbert - (issues in liturgical translation)

Dr Clare Johnson - (a model for implementation of the Missal)

Sr Adele Howard RSM and Ms Anne Walsh from Fraynetwork provided a preview of the interactive resource 'Become One Body, One Spirit in Christ.'

Workshops were conducted by:

Fr David Orr OSB, Mrs Jenny O'Brien, Mr Bernard Kirkpatrick, Mrs Elizabeth Harrington and Fr Tom Elich.

On Sunday morning the Conference attended the Solemn Mass at the recently rebuilt St Mary's Cathedral where Archbishop Barry Hickey was the principal celebrant and homilist. Over 110 people attended the Conference from all around Australia and this was the largest gathering of representatives since the first meeting in Sydney in early 1990's.

Bishops Commission for the Liturgy Meeting — May 2010

The BCL met prior to the May plenary of the ACBC on Tuesday May 4, 2010 at North Sydney.

Present: Archbishop Mark Coleridge (Chairman); Archbishop Denis Hart; Bishop Max Davis; Rev Peter Williams (Executive Secretary)

Membership & Appointments

With the retirement of Bishop Kevin Manning, the Plenary confirmed the appointment of Bishop Peter Ingham as a member of the Bishops Commission for Liturgy.

The BCL resolved (and the Plenary confirmed) the appointment of the Rev Peter G Williams to serve another two years as Executive Secretary of the Bishops Commission for Liturgy. A successor will be appointed at the November Plenary of 2011 and Fr Williams will conclude his term at the May Plenary of 2012.

NLC Website

The BCL considered the proposal and also the advice from the Bishops Commission for Finance and Administration. It was decided that at this time it is not feasible to proceed with this project. IT support for the BCL will need to be contained within the existing website.

National Liturgical Architecture and Art Board

The BCL nominated the following as inaugural members of the Board:

Rev Stephen Hackett MSC (Chairman); The Most Reverend Philip Wilson (Archbishop of Adelaide);

Rev Tom Elich; Mr Harry Stephens; Sr Rosemary Crumlin RSM; Mr Andrew Kirkbride;

Rev Charles Portelli; Rev Peter Williams

Each member will have a three year appointment in accordance with the provision in the statutes.

The Feast of Blessed Mary MacKillop

In 2010 the Feast Day (August 8) falls on a Sunday and under the liturgical rules would be displaced by the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Bishops (in Plenary session) agreed that for 2010 only, the Feast will be observed in the Chapel in North Sydney, Penola in South Australia, and the Archdiocese of Brisbane and the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. Elsewhere the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time will be observed.

On Sunday 17th October, 2010 (for this year only) being the day of the canonisation in Rome, the Feast of Blessed Mary MacKillop will be observed in all Dioceses across Australia. A number of Bishops have indicated that on their return from the canonisation they may hold Thanksgiving Masses in their Diocese, but these will be determined by the local Church.



NATIONAL OFFICE FOR LITURGY

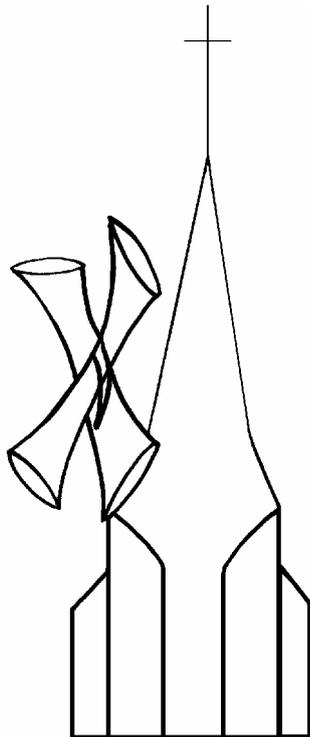
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A d libitum



From the Desk (cont)

Responses

The new translation will provide ordinary people in the assembly with a new translation of some responses. These are designed to be either chanted or said. In order to facilitate these new responses the NLC will produce laminated 'Mass cards' to enable people to easily accommodate to the changes. Aligned with this will be a series of bulletin style articles that are not too dense, but provide helpful information and explanations about the change and why we are now saying something slightly different to what has been the custom for the past forty years.

Needless to say there will be some 'verbal dissonance' at first, but over the space of a few weeks that should cease and the adjustment will have been made.

This will also provide a challenge for those in the Catholic schools sector, but the NLC in collaboration with the National Catholic Education Commission's Religious Education Committee are producing a resource for Catholic primary and secondary schools that will enable teachers and students to become familiar with the changes. This should be available by the beginning of second term next year.

The Challenge of Change

This topic is in fact one of the titles for one section of 'Become One Body, One Spirit in Christ.' Anyone who has an established a pattern of familiarity with various routines in life finds change unsettling and often disruptive. Human beings always will react either positively or negatively to change in any facet of life. Religious practice and ritual participation is no different to other areas of life, and in many ways perhaps the religious dimension is for many even more sensitive.

It will be very important that the way in which the change is negotiated and implemented in parishes and other communities is done with sensitivity and respectful of the different capacities that people have to embrace new things. This will apply as much to the clergy as it will to the laity. We will need to assist one another and be patient over the implementation time.

As with any major change, we will probably look back several months after the implementation is complete and wonder what the problem was.

Education and formation will be the key to a successful outcome in implementing the new translation. It will require the goodwill of all those involved in the liturgical apostolate in Australia, and a positive approach from those in liturgical leadership. For its part the Bishops Commission for Liturgy, the National Liturgical Council and the National Liturgical Music Board will do all they can to ensure that all Catholic communities either large or small, city or rural, will have the resources they need to make the transition as smooth as possible. In the end, the Missal is a vehicle (albeit imperfect as any liturgy form is) for the worship of God, and as Our Lord said to the woman at the well in Samaria, "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24)

Let us pray that during these months of preparing for the new translation we can work together cooperatively to ensure that our worship will lift the hearts and minds of the assembly to God and that our lives will be graced by our encounter with the Divine.