



**Media Release
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Pope Benedict XVI issues directions on the use of the 1962 Missal

Pope Benedict XVI has issued a *Motu Proprio* (formal direction) on the use of the 1962 Roman Missal in which he clarifies the place of the pre-Vatican II Mass in the life of the Church.

The Second Vatican Council decreed that the Roman Rite be reformed and after the Council the Mass and other liturgical rites in the Church were subject to extensive revision.

Fr Peter Williams, Executive Officer of the National Liturgical Office, said that since 1969 Catholics have used the Missal of Pope Paul VI and from the early 1970s provision was made for the celebration of Mass and other liturgical rites in the vernacular.

“The form of Mass celebrated in Catholic parishes in Australia today is a translation of that Missal in English,” he said

“Pope Benedict in this *Motu Proprio* expresses that the Missal in use at the time of the Council was never legally abrogated, and thus is still a legitimate form for celebrating Mass.”

The new document permits any Latin rite priest to celebrate according to the Missal of 1962 in private, but also makes provision that if a group of people in a parish request a celebration of the Missal of 1962 that he should give serious consideration to the request.

“The Holy Father stresses that above all the unity and cohesion of the Parish communities should be the primary outcome of the celebration of any form of the liturgy,” Fr Williams said. “He refers to the 1962 Missal as an ‘extraordinary’ form of the Roman rite with the Missal of Paul VI being the ‘ordinary’ form.

“Already in Australia provision is made for celebrations of the Missal of 1962 in a number of places. It is not expected that there will be any considerable change to the pattern of worship established in most Catholic parishes in Australia.

“The pastoral provision here is to ensure that the needs of those faithful who maintain an affection for the 1962 Missal and the clergy who celebrate that rite have a clearer direction in their understanding of its place within the liturgical patrimony of the Church.”

For more information contact Fr Peter Williams on 0411 289 956.