

Prayer

Gather

Listen

either listen again to Colossians 3:12-17
or to 1 Peter 2: 4-10

Respond

using one of the forms of the Penitential Act from Mass
and/or intercessions/spontaneous prayer

Go!

Prayer for our Pastoral Area



Come to the Feast

Week 1: Gather

Gather

Welcome and prayer
Introductions and overview

Listen to Scripture

Colossians 3:12-17
God's chosen people called together in one body

Respond

1. How does this scripture speak to us as a community – the 'Body of Christ'?
2. What is it like to come to Mass, called by God to gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ? Do we recognise ourselves as 'called', and as 'brothers and sisters in Christ'?
3. How welcoming is our community? Are there any called by God who would not feel 'at home' in our church?
4. How do I prepare for Mass?

Richard Martin 2017

*With thanks to the Liturgy Office of England & Wales for extracts and ideas from
'With Hearts and Minds' (2005) and 'In Spirit and in Truth' (2011)*

Listen to the Church

General Instruction of the Roman Missal

95 In the celebration of Mass the faithful form a holy people, a people of God's own possession and a royal priesthood, so that they may give thanks to God and offer the unblemished sacrificial Victim not only by means of the hands of the Priest but also together with him and so that they may learn to offer their very selves. They should, moreover, take care to show this by their deep religious sense and their charity toward brothers and sisters who participate with them in the same celebration.

They are consequently to avoid any appearance of singularity or division, keeping in mind that they have only one Father in heaven and that hence are all brothers or sisters one to the other.

96 Moreover, they are to form one body, whether in hearing the Word of God, or in taking part in the prayers and in the singing, or above all by the common offering of the Sacrifice and by participating together at the Lord's table. This unity is beautifully apparent from the gestures and bodily postures observed together by the faithful.

Celebrating the Mass

139 In the Introductory Rites, Christ joins the Church to himself and gathers her children to join their voices to his perfect hymn of praise. Thus, the liturgical assembly, "where two or three come together in Christ's name, and where he is found in their midst (cf. Mt 18:20), is the 'first image that the Church gives of herself'". Indeed the assembly itself is also the first instance of Christ's presence in the liturgy.

The purpose of the Introductory Rites is to ensure that the faithful, who come together as one, establish communion and dispose themselves to listen properly to God's word and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.

Respond

1. As a group describe what happens between the beginning of Mass and the first reading and why we might do these things.
2. What are the ways we express our unity during this part of the Mass?
3. How might we be aware of Christ's presence in the people gathered together?

Go!

1. This week, choose a text from the Introductory Rites (e.g. the Gloria or Greeting) and pray it slowly over and over, allowing silence for reflection afterwards.
2. Come to Mass early this weekend and notice how the community gathers. What sort of witness do we give to the wider community? What is the atmosphere like in church? Is there a sense of welcome for all? How could we improve on our welcome? Notice the different ways people prepare for Mass.