

Week 5: Go!

| Week | Week's Theme | Part of the mass |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 28 Oct – 3 Nov | Gather | Gathering & Introductory Rites |
| 4 – 10 Nov | Listen & Respond | Liturgy of the Word |
| 11 – 17 Nov | Give Thanks & Praise | Preparation of Gifts, Eucharistic Prayer |
| 18 – 24 Nov | Receive | Communion |
| 25 Nov – 2 Dec | Go! | Concluding Rites |

Looking at the Mass

Introductory Rites

Liturgy of the Word

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Concluding Rites

- Announcements
- Greeting & Blessing
- Dismissal



After the Communion Rite, the Mass closes with a brief Concluding Rite. Its purpose is to send us out to put into effect in our daily lives the Paschal Mystery and the unity in Christ which we have celebrated. We are given a sense of abiding mission, which calls us to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.

The announcements should help us make the transition from worship into renewed Christian witness in society. We are made aware of our community's faith life and pastoral activity and are invited to participate in the Church's ongoing work.

The Dismissal sends us out to give glory to the Lord in the midst of our daily responsibilities.

Active participation in the Eucharist is a transforming experience. In our prayers, and those of the whole Church, we seek the transformation not only of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, but, through the same Spirit, our own transformation into the Body of Christ. But it does not end here...

Authentic Catholic spirituality is centred on communal celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ so that we may go out into the world to live that mystery, refreshed and restored as agents of God's love.

The Christian is called into a broken world to witness to and work for the coming of the Kingdom of God.

The Eucharist must feed those of us who celebrate: for our work in the healing of relationships, in the promotion of peace and justice, and in the proclamation of the Good News.

[see *Celebrating the Mass* 14-17, 217-225]

Why do we do that...?

The Mass has many alternative names, each highlighting different aspects of the celebration (e.g. Lord's Supper, Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, Memorial of the Lord's Passion and Resurrection, Holy Sacrifice) – but why "Mass"?

In Latin, the words of dismissal are "*Ite missa est*" and it is from the word *missa* that our word mass comes. Translation of this ancient formula is disputed. It is likely to mean either "Go, it is sent" or "Go, it is the dismissal". Either way, it encapsulates the idea that we have come to mass in order to be sent back into the world. The word 'dismissal' itself comes from the same Latin root *missa*, as does 'mission'.

SCRIPTURE CORNER

Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations

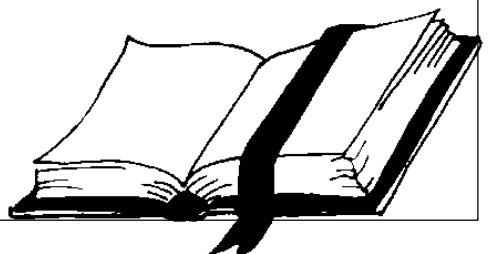
Matthew 28:19

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven

Matthew 5:16

This is my commandment: that you love one another as I have loved you

John 15:12



In Communion With Christ

The Liturgy is the 'source and summit' of Christian life. It is **source**: for in the Liturgy we receive the grace we need to live in communion with God each day of our lives. It is **summit**: because we bring to the Mass all the events of our lives, the joys and sorrows, the failures, the successes, and they are united with Christ's offering of himself to his Father.

*What we receive
at Mass, we take
to our lives*

What we receive at Mass, we take to our lives: what we live, we bring to the Mass. There is a spiralling progression leading us into an ever-deeper relationship with God.

Pope St John Paul II asked us whether this is how things are: '*To what extent does the Liturgy affect the practice of the faithful and does it mark the rhythm of the individual communities? Is it seen as a path of holiness, an inner force of apostolic dynamism and of the Church's missionary outreach?*' (*Spiritus et Sponsa*, 6)

At the end of Mass, things don't suddenly end – we are sent out: 'Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life', 'Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord'. We are sent to do in the world what we have done at Mass – to be at one with others; to listen for God's voice; to offer praise and thanksgiving; to love. These are not easy things to do. We might want to live in peace, but our peace will often be disturbed by injustice and suffering. If these are endured by others, we might simply try to block them out of our consciousness. But then we live a lie. To live the peace of Christ's kingdom is to seek to heal all hurt, overcome all wrong-doing. It calls us to action, not to passivity. Not just to love the Lord but also to serve him. And Jesus teaches us that we most truly love and serve the Lord when we love and serve him in the least and the weakest of our brothers and sisters (see *Matthew 25.31-46*).

*The Mass calls
us to action*



A PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH

Father, pour out your Spirit on our parish
and grant us a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power,
a new faithfulness to your word
and a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow among us
and your kingdom come,
through Christ, our Lord.

AMEN



DURING MASS TODAY...

✠ When you listen to the announcements, try to see how they make a connection between what we do at mass and how we respond through action outside mass.

With your child:

Encourage your child to join you in:

- ☺ making a prayerful 'sign of the cross' during the final blessing.
- ☺ saying the final "Thanks be to God" as if you really appreciate the Mass.

This week's suggestions:

- Think about how your everyday life is a Christian witness to others.
- Decide on one way that you will try to give glory to God by your life this week.
- Continue learning more about your faith and deepening your relationship with Christ – plan how you will do this.
- Read through this leaflet again and reflect on what it is saying.
- Say the Prayer for our Parish every day.

With your child, why not try...?

- doing something to help someone in need
- reading a story about the life of a saint
- making a card or drawing a picture for someone to show you are thinking of them
- spending time together, enjoying each other's company and love