



**CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE
MALAYSIA - SINGAPORE - BRUNEI**

MAJODI Centre, Lot 2101, Jalan Masai, Plentong, 81750 Masai, Johor Darul Takzim, Malaysia.
Tel: +607-3871121 Fax: +607-3872498 Email: cbcmsb@majodi.org

6 July 2011

**PASTORAL LETTER ON THE NEW TRANSLATION
OF THE ROMAN MISSAL**

(TO BE READ AT THE WEEKEND MASSES OF THE 30/31 JULY 2011)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Beginning the first Sunday in Advent 2011, the Roman Catholic Church of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, and in all other English speaking countries will begin using a new English translation of the Mass with the third typical edition of the Roman Missal.

Our celebration of the Mass will remain the same, but there will be changes in the language used in the Liturgy and so parts of it will sound different. These changes, however, do not represent a change for change's sake.

This new translation of the Roman Missal offer us a fuller expression of the content of the original texts, by drawing us to closer union with the Sacred Scriptures which inspire so much of our liturgy, with a vocabulary that enriches our understanding of the mystery we celebrate.

The new Missal is the Church's gift to our generation and is one of a number of indications that the Church is moving into a new phase of the ongoing journey of liturgical renewal, the roots of which reach back to the Second Vatican Council and beyond.

We have come to a new threshold moment of the Church's liturgical renewal, now is the time, the Spirit prompts to the Church, to a new and powerful way of transmitting the Apostolic faith. There is an old adage in Latin which states that the way we pray forms the way we believe. So words and language we pray matter. What we pray makes a difference in what we believe. Our prayer has implications for how we grasp the saving truths that are communicated to us through the liturgy.



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE MALAYSIA - SINGAPORE - BRUNEI

MAJODI Centre, Lot 2101, Jalan Masai, Plentong, 81750 Masai, Johor Darul Takzim, Malaysia.
Tel: +607-3871121 Fax: +607-3872498 Email: cbcmsb@majodi.org

Therefore, the unique style of language and expression used in the new missal is one that takes us out of ourselves and draws us into the sacred, the transcendent and the divine. It restores the ancient understanding of the Eucharist as a sacred mystery thus enhancing the dignity with which we celebrate the 'source and summit' of the Church's life. It renews the vertical dimension of the liturgy — as a spiritual sacrifice that we offer in union with the sacrifice that our heavenly High Priest who celebrates unceasingly in the eternal liturgy, hence drawing us to move towards that “fuller and more conscious and active participation” in the mystery of the liturgy to which the Church invites us.

This is the great gift and the promise of this new translation of the Roman Missal. In order for the Church to realize the full potential of the gift of this new Missal, beginning July the bishops will progressively make available formation programs for all its priests and deacons, catechists and liturgical ministers and our parishes and, as from September until Advent, we will begin to use the new liturgical texts at Mass and hear why certain changes have been made, study the new texts and familiarise ourselves with the prayers and chants. This period of preparation will allow us to be acquainted with and pray these new texts.

It is truly fitting that such a renewal and significant unfolding of the prayer life of our Church begins with the Season of Advent. In the company of Mary, the Mother of God, as we *prepare to receive joyfully the Word made flesh, "full of grace and truth", whose "glory we have seen, the glory of the only Son of the Father" (John 1:14)* May this new birth in our liturgical life in the Church radiate “the efficacious sign of the infinite beauty of the holy mystery of God.” (*Sacramentum Caritatis*)

Published by the Catholic Bishops Conference of Malaysia Singapore and Brunei on 6 July 2011.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ Rt. Rev. Paul Tan Chee Ing, S.J.
President
Catholic Bishops' Conference,
Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei