

New Catholic Lectionary: FAQs

Provided by the Catholic Truth Society



What's changing?

What is happening and why?

The lectionary is changing as part of the continuing process of revising liturgical translations. The process began with the Roman Missal in 2011 and has continued to work through all the other liturgical rites.

The changes are intended to make the biblical translations more faithful to the original languages, using better and more up-to-date biblical scholarship and to use a text which is more proclaimable.

What translation will the new Lectionary use?

The new lectionary will be using the English Standard Version – Catholic Edition of the Bible and the Abbey Psalter.

What effect will the changes have on the Mass readings?

The changes are intended to make the biblical translations more faithful to the original languages, biblical scholarship, and to provide a text for use in liturgical setting that is more proclaimable and, where appropriate, more inclusive.

When will the changes take place?

The new Lectionary will come into force on the first Sunday of Advent 2024, but parishes can start using it as soon as it arrives.

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What's different about the new Lectionary?

Other than the translation of Scripture, will there be any other key differences between the new Lectionary and the old one?

The lectionary will have a fully up-to-date Proper of Saints including the new universal and national feasts that have been instituted since the publication of the last lectionary. There are also important differences inside the Lectionary to make it more proclaimable – [click here](#) to learn more about these changes.

Does the ESV use inclusive language?

The ESV uses inclusive language only where it is faithful to the original language. This means that where the original language used male-gendered words to refer to both men and women, the ESV translators saw fit to make this more accurate for an English-speaking audience by changing it so that it is clearly understood to refer to both men and women.

For example, if the word “brothers” is used in the original language to address both men and women (but ONLY when it is used to address both men and women), the ESV translators changed it to “brothers and sisters” to retain the original meaning, since in the English language, unlike the original language, the word “brothers” is understood to refer only to men. This is considered to be “inclusive” in the sense that while the original language did not intend to exclude women by use of the word “brothers”, the English language interprets “brothers” to refer exclusively to men.

However, where male-gendered words were used to refer to men (for example, the Apostles) or God this has not been changed. Hence it remains faithful to the original language.

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Changes for the faithful

Can I keep using my current Weekday/Daily/Sunday Missal once Advent begins?

While the Order of Mass and other supplementary materials in your missal will stay the same, the translation of the readings in your current missal will no longer be the same. You can order new missals [here](#).

Will CTS be publishing Weekday and/or Daily Missals?

The Daily Missal (which contains the readings for both Sunday Mass and Weekday Mass) is currently planned for early 2025. You can register your interest [here](#) to be notified via email when it's available to order. If you would also be interested in a Weekday Missal, please register your interest as the more interest there is, the more likely we will decide to publish it in addition to the Daily Missal.



New Catholic Lectionary: FAQs

Provided by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales



Are there changes to the readings?

This is a new publication of the Lectionary using a different scripture translations — the content remains the same. So, for the reading for each Sunday will be the same.

What's new?

There will be provision for Saints who have been added to the Universal Calendar since the last Lectionary published in 1981. There will also be the readings for the National Calendars. In addition, some of the revised liturgical rites, such as Marriage, have additional readings.

Will the text be mandatory?

It is normal practice in the Roman Rite that there is only a single edition of a liturgical text in use in a particular territory. So in the same way as only the third edition of the Roman Missal (2010) may be used in the celebration of Mass (in the Ordinary Form); the same will be true for the Lectionary.

Who will be publishing the Lectionary?

The Catholic Truth Society have been appointed publishers for the Lectionary. They are working closely with the bishops to ensure that the published volumes are worthy, clear in page layout, sturdy and reflect the daily needs of the liturgy.

When will the Lectionary published?

The bishops of England and Wales completed their approval of the Lectionary text in 2018. The text was then submitted to the Holy See to be reviewed. The Lectionary will be published in good time for its first use in Advent 2024.

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How many volumes?

The current Lectionary (1981) is in three volumes. One significant change in the layout is that all the readings will be given in sense lines as an assistance to the reader. This is recommended in the Introduction to the Lectionary and is common to most recent publications of the Lectionary. The effect is that readings do require more space and this means more pages.

The new Lectionary will be in four volumes: one for Sundays and Solemnities, two volumes for Weekdays and the Proper of Saints, a final volume with Ritual Masses, Masses for the Dead etc.

What is a Missal?

In the Liturgy the Missal can refer to three distinct but related things. To many people the most familiar meaning is a peoples' Missal – either for Sundays or weekdays.

To understand the other two meanings, it is easiest to take a step away. The various books of the Roman Rite (for the celebration of Sacraments etc.) are grouped together. Those rites which are primarily celebrated by the Bishop (such as Ordination) are part of the Roman Pontifical. The two books for the celebration of Mass form the Roman Missal, one of these, which contains the readings is the Lectionary, the other, which contains the prayers, is the Missal.

Will I need a new Sunday Missal?

Many people have a Sunday or Weekday Missal to either prepare the readings or to reflect on them. Some also use it to follow the text which is proclaimed in the liturgy. As the new Lectionary will use a different translation of the scriptures people will wish to get a new Sunday or Weekday Missal.

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What is the English Standard Version: Catholic Edition?

The English Standard Version is the latest in a series of English translations which go back to the 16th Century. These translations have all been based on a ‘word for word’ principle. The ESV is directly based on the Revised Standard Version and it is suggested that c. 6% of the text has been revised. Changes were made to modernise the language and reflect the latest scholarship. The publisher Crossway emphasises ‘word-for-word’ accuracy, literary excellence, and depth of meaning. Work on the Catholic Edition was done by the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of India in collaboration with Crossway.

What is the Abbey Psalms and Canticles?

The Grail Psalms have been part of Liturgy in English since before the Second Vatican Council. They are used in both the Lectionary and the Divine Office.

In 2008 a revision of the text was undertaken by the monks of Conception Abbey, Missouri. It sought to bring the latest scholarly understanding of the text and to review the text where the English was essentially a paraphrase of the Hebrew. This text was approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in 2010. A further revision in the light of use was prepared and approved both by USCCB and CBCEW, and has received the confirmation of the Holy See. This text is now owned by USCCB who have renamed it Abbey Psalms and Canticles both in recognition of the work of Conception Abbey and also so that there was clarity about the edition being used. This text will be used in the Lectionary and in subsequent liturgical books, such as the Liturgy of the Hours.

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Is there a revision of the Liturgy of the Hours as well?

The International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) is responsible for translating the Latin liturgical texts for the English-speaking Bishops' Conferences. It was approached by USCCB to assist in a new translation of the Liturgy of the Hours. Broadly this work can be divided into three areas: Psalms and Canticles; Scripture and scripture based texts; other texts.

The Abbey Psalms and Canticles will provide the first area. Other texts are being translated by ICEL — these include the hymns, many of which have not been available before, and the intercessions. This vast project has been in progress for a number of years with the Bishops of England and Wales receiving, commenting and voting on the material which has been prepared by ICEL. There is not currently an estimated date for publication.



New Catholic Lectionary: FAQs

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The new English lectionary

The Bishops of England, Wales and Scotland have decided that a new version of the readings at Mass shall be used, starting on Advent Sunday, 1 December 2024. This new Lectionary will use the English Standard Version (a derivative of the RSV) rather than the Jerusalem Bible. This means that everybody in Great Britain needs new Lectionaries and new Missals.

All the Universalis apps and programs have now been updated (with the exception of the Kindle Fire app, which will come soon).

If your Universalis or Catholic Calendar app is set to use an English, Welsh or Scottish calendar, and you look at any date from 1 December onwards, you will see a preview of the new ESV texts: the First and Second Readings, the Responsorial Psalm, the Gospel Acclamation, and the Gospel itself. If you don't see the preview, here are instructions for getting the latest update. Here are instructions for setting your local calendar.

This is a preview because the files we have been given still need to have some small corrections made. Everyone is very busy helping publishers prepare their Missals, but we expect to receive 'finally final' texts well before December.