

HELPFUL DOs & DON'Ts

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST.

- The gifts presented before the altar are BREAD & WINE ONLY. Church collections can be carried forward in procession.
The practice of bringing forward group insignia or personal memorabilia, while well intentioned, is a misunderstanding of the Liturgy.
- As far as is practical the majority of hosts to be distributed at Mass should be consecrated at that Mass. This would draw our attention to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit in each Mass.
- If practical during Sunday Masses - but certainly during some weekday Masses - Holy Communion should be distributed under both species: take and EAT, take and DRINK.
- The priest says the Doxology: *Through him and with him and in him etc*, the people say *Amen*. The priest should not say the *Amen* and the people should not say the *Doxology*. It is a dialogue prayer and creates a rhythm between priest and people.
- The people should stand immediately once they proclaim the Great Amen.

Praying the Mass

3. OFFERING & SACRIFICE

17th July

Welcoming the 3rd Edition of the Roman Missal

OFFERING & SACRIFICE: TRUE THANKSGIVING

Offering is something we do long before we come to Mass. People sometimes begin their day by saying 'The Morning Offering'. We offer our day to God. We offer our lives to God but we can do so only with His help; by His Spirit dwelling within us.

Raising a family, providing for your home, caring for the elderly, sharing with the poor are all ways of offering worship and thanks to God.

In the Mass we join our offerings to the supreme offering of Jesus Christ, when he gave his life on the cross for the life and salvation of the world.

This is why in every Mass, even weekday Masses if possible, the gifts of bread and wine should be carried forward in procession. Some of the congregation present to the priest the bread and wine to be offered during the Eucharistic Prayer. This procession is a deeply symbolic gesture and begins the people's participation in the Eucharistic Prayer.

We participate in the great Eucharistic Prayer by following the prayer as the priest prays it and by speaking or singing the appropriate responses - Holy, Holy, Holy, the Proclamation of Faith and the Great Amen. If choirs alone sing these parts and people do not participate, the congregation's part in this great prayer is obscured.

The priest prays twice for the Father to send the Holy Spirit during the Eucharistic Prayer - the *epiclesis*.

The first epiclesis is over the bread and wine to make them holy and they truly become the Body and Blood of Christ: the Bread of Life and the Cup of Eternal Salvation. In the second epiclesis the priest asks the Father to send the Spirit upon the people who will share in the Bread of Life so that they too may become holy - the Body of Christ.

We are transformed *by* Body of Christ *into* the Body of Christ. We are re-created by Christ's love.

The Eucharistic Prayer reveals to us the depth of Christ's love for us. ***"This is my body given for YOU, this is my blood poured out for YOU and for many for the forgiveness of sins."*** Hearing these words each Sunday we know that we are loved and forgiven. These are the two greatest needs in a person's life. They guide us in life and save us in death.

