

## GIRM Question and Answer No. 3

**Q. I visited another church recently and during the Mass the bells were only rung once?**

What does the GIRM say?

#150

A little before the Consecration, if appropriate, a minister rings a small bell as a signal to the faithful. The minister also rings the small bell at each elevation by the Priest, according to local custom. If incense is being used, when the host and the chalice are shown to the people after the Consecration, a minister incenses them.

In summary

The use of bells during Mass was for a practical reason. Prior to the Vatican II changes in liturgy, the Mass was in Latin and the priest spoke in a low voice and the people had an obstructed view of what was happening. Ringing the bells immediately drew everyone's attention to what was happening in the Mass. As we can all see and hear what is happening now the reason for the ringing of bells no longer exists. They were rung several times

