

# What is the GIRM?

GIRM is an acronym for General Instruction of the Roman Missal.

This document is found at the beginning of the Roman Missal. It includes a Preamble that proclaims the unchanged faith and unbroken tradition of the Catholic Church regarding the celebration of the Eucharist. It also briefly describes the ways in which the Mass has been adapted to changed conditions throughout history.

There then follow eight detailed chapters:

- The Importance of Dignity of the Eucharistic Celebration
- Structure, Elements, and Parts of the Mass
- Office and Ministries in the Mass
- The Different Forms of Celebration
- The Arrangement and Furnishing of Churches for the Eucharistic Celebration
- Requisites for Celebrating Mass
- Choice of the Mass and its Parts
- Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, and Masses for the Dead.

The years since the Second Vatican Council (1962-1966) have seen a number of liturgical developments. All of these have served to help everyone - assembly, clergy, and lay ministers - to participate in a 'full, active and conscious way' in the celebration of the sacred Liturgy.

The Church's faith in the Eucharist as the 'true, real and substantial Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ' has been firm and consistent through the centuries.

However, the way in which the Church celebrates this Mystery of Faith has varied and developed over time.

Just as people have different ways of expressing love as relationships grow, so the Catholic Church has various ritual actions and words that develop with the passage of time.

*Extract taken from EVER ANCIENT EVER NEW Flyer*



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