

Prayers of the Assembly

Particular texts we say at Mass



TARGET AUDIENCE

K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----

Overview

This Object deals with the seven texts of the Order of Mass that are said by the assembly in unison. The texts are one of the four categories: song of praise; affirmation of faith; prayer; or acclamation.

The multimedia element of this Object is an interactive prayer book. Clicking through the prayer book reveals the seven texts from the celebration of the Eucharist.

Teacher Background

Teachers are encouraged to review the 'Receiving this English Translation' and 'Celebrating the Eucharist' sections of the DVD Rom *Become One Body One Spirit in Christ* to deepen their understanding of the history of translation, the principles of translation, and the changes to the text, as well as the meaning and significance of the sacrament.

In particular, the following aspects of *Become One Body One Spirit in Christ* provide entry points and context for this Learning Object:

'Receiving this English Translation'

- Within the pathway 'The Translators' Task', sub-section 'Principles', watch the video 'Importance of Words'.
- Within the pathway 'Challenges and Opportunities' watch the video 'Youth and the Mass'.

Where appropriate, use this material with the students.

Supporting Content

This text supports the focus of the multimedia element.

Songs of Praise

From the earliest times Christians began to sing hymns to God in thanks for Jesus Christ and his life. Some of these can be found in the New Testament, and some come to us from the first two hundred years of the Church's history. The Gloria is a very early hymn or song of praise.

Affirmations of Faith

Christians needed to be able to summarise what it is that they believed. The

Prayers of the Assembly

Particular texts we say at Mass



Supporting Content

creeds are statements of what it is that the Church believes about God and Jesus (Nicene Creed) and what individual believers also believe (Apostle's Creed).

Prayers

There are many ways to pray to God, but Jesus gave to his friends a prayer that they could all learn and say. We call that prayer the 'Our Father' or 'The Lord's Prayer.' In the early years of the Church some people began to write down prayers so that others could use them and these became part of what today we call the Mass prayers.

Acclamations

Acclamations are usually short statements that help us to focus on important moments in the Mass.

For Reflection and Discussion: Ideas for Use

Select one or more of the following activities for students to complete.

1 **Invite students to learn the prayers of the assembly. Practise using these prayers as the morning prayer in class. Additionally, ask students to draw or find pictures to illustrate the meaning of these prayers. Display the students' pictures and then collate them into a prayer book, either online or as a hardcopy.**

2 **As a class identify the reasons why the particular texts in the multimedia element are categorised as they are.**

Identify different types of songs that we sing in Church and see if you can discern the difference between songs of praise, songs that are penitential, songs that are personal and expressions of faith.

Form students into groups of four and invite each group to find examples of one of these types of songs. Ask the groups to illustrate one of their examples and to discuss their thoughts on it with the class.

3 **Form students into small groups to complete this activity. Once these are completed, compile a class prayer book.**

Make up some short prayers, remembering that some prayers are personal and use 'I' and some are communal and use 'we'.

Teacher Professional Development Resources

Adams, Andrew, '[Assembly Truth: The Assembly Prayer Meeting](#)', *Truth and Tidings Magazine*, Vol. 53, No 5, 2011