



## **Deep Meaning & Mystery of Latin Prayers at Holy Mass**

**Lex orandi, lex credendi** (Law of Prayer, is the Law of Belief, i.e. How we pray shows what we believe) Let us know what, why and how we are praying.

**Missa** ~ means Mass in English, being derived from Latin word: Missa, & that taken from the Hebrew word Missach, which signifies a free voluntary offering.

**Ite Missa Est** ~ They signify, that the Host is offered, Mass ended, and the people dismissed; representing the voice of the angel dismissing the apostles and disciples when they stood looking up after Christ ascended into heaven, with, "O ye men of Galilee, why stand you here looking up into heaven?"

**Deo Gratias** ~ "Thanks be to God!" Offering thanks for the infinite Gift of the Mass.

**Missal** ~ It is the Mass book, wherein this Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is contained.

**Dominus Vobiscum** ~ "Our Lord be with you," used to beg God's presence and assistance to our souls in the performance of that holy work. The more we are united to God the holier & perfect we are. The *Dominus vobiscum* appears 8 times in the Mass, from the Prayers at the Foot of the Altar to the Last Gospel. Four of those times, the priest turns to the congregation when giving the greeting, to call us back into the presence of God and not be distracted at Mass. Adding the priest's semicircular turn at the *Orate Fratres*, the priest turns a total of 5 times to the people during the Mass. St. Thomas Aquinas says, this repeated action denotes "that Our Lord manifested Himself five times on the Day of His Resurrection."

**Et cum Spiritu tuo** ~ "and with thy spirit?" To signify, that the people with one consent do beg the like for him.

**Confiteor** ~ "I confess" an act of sorrow for sin and to signify that by the merits and passion of Christ, salvation may be had, if it be sought with a contrite and humble heart, which is shown physically by the beating of the breast at the **Mea Culpa** (My Fault).

**Pater Noster ~** Why is it said with a loud voice by the priest alone? It is at that moment Christ is praying for us & the priest represents Christ. Said loud to signify, by the seven petitions thereof, the seven mystical words which Christ spoke upon the Cross with a loud voice, viz. "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do. 2. To day shalt thou be with me in Paradise. 3. Behold thy mother; woman behold thy son. 4. My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me. 5. I thirst. 6. Into thy hands I commend my spirit. 7. It is consummated."

**Oremus ~** "Let us Pray" is the priest's address to the people, by which he invites them to join with him, both in his prayer and intention.

**Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, &c. ~** "Through our Lord Jesus Christ..." all prayers end this way to signify, that whatsoever we beg of God the Father, we must beg it in the name of Jesus Christ, by whom He hath given us all things.

**Sequentia sancti Evangelii, &c.~** The sequel of the Holy Gospel, &c. Is to move attention, and to signify what part of the Gospel he then reads.

**Gloria tibi Domine ~** The Altar server or Clerk responds: "Glory be to thee, O Lord. To give the glory of the Gospel to God, who hath of His mercy made us partakers of it.

**Per omnia sæcula sæculorum ~** "for ever and ever," to signify the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem, after he had lain hid a little space; and therefore followed by the Sanctus, ending in the Hosana, benedictus qui venit, &c. which was the Hebrew children's song. To signify that the entry of Christ into Jerusalem was not to a kingdom of this world, but to a death upon the cross. The cross we are about to be at in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

**"Hoc est corpus meum. &c.~** "This is my body etc. holy words of Consecration. The Protestants mock the sacred words by accusing the priest of magic Hocus Pocus, a play on the Sacred Words.

**Nobis quoque Peccatoribus ~** "and to us sinners also," the priest prays while he strikes his breast, in memory of the supplication of the penitent thief made to Christ on the Cross; that so we also (though unworthy sinners) by the virtue of this Sacrifice, may with him and the holy saints, be made partakers of the heavenly kingdom.

**Pax Domini sit semper vobiscum ~** "May the peace of the Lord be always with you." To signify that the frequent voice of Christ to his disciples, Pax vobis, Peace be to you; as also to signify the triple peace which He hath purchased for us, by his Cross, namely, external, internal, and eternal. This is signified by the 3 crosses the priest makes over the Consecrated Host.

**Domine non sum dignus, &c. ~** "O Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof; but only say the word," &c. It was the Centurion's prayer, by which he obtained health for the sick boy, Matt. viii. 8. And teacheth us not to approach this Sacrament, but with an humble and contrite heart.