

## **The Directory on Masses with Children (1973)**

The Directory on Masses with Children sets out the way that Mass is to be celebrated with children. The adult forms of the Mass should not be used.

## **Fundamental Human Activities Reflected in the Liturgy (n.9)**

The Directory speaks of the 'fundamental human activities' which are reflected in the liturgy. In planning liturgy with children, consideration should be given to ensuring these activities are evident and clear.

- Acting as a community
- Exchange of greetings
- Capacity to listen
- Seeking and giving pardon
- Expressing gratitude
- Experiencing symbolic actions
- Meal of friendship
- Festive celebration

## **Importance of Participation (n.22)**

The Directory frequently emphasises that children should be actively involved in the celebration of Mass, including the following:

- Preparing the place and altar
- Singing as cantor
- Singing in choir
- Playing musical instruments
- Proclaiming the readings
- Responding in dialogue homily
- Reading bidding prayers
- Bring gifts to altar
- Reading commentaries
- + Altar serving
- + Eucharistic ministers
- + Accompanying Blessed Sacrament at Communion
- + Stewards
- + Preparation of Mass sheets
- + Preparation of art work, digital display, etc.

## Adaptation of the Rites

The Directory makes clear the principle of appropriate adaptation not new rites (n.21). But the flexibility allowed is considerable. Adaptation must be exercised with a good understanding of the structure and relative importance of parts of the Mass.

<b>The Rite of Mass</b>	<b>Adaptations encouraged by the Directory</b>
<p><b>The Introductory Rites</b></p> <p>Entrance Hymn</p> <p>In the name of the Father ... Greeting Introduction to Mass</p> <p>Penitential rite Gloria</p> <p>Opening Prayer (The Collect)</p>	<p><b>The Introductory Rites</b></p> <p><i>The introductory rites may be reduced so as not to jeopardize by excess of rites (40)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>omit one or other element</i></li> <li>• <i>or expand an element</i></li> </ul> <p>Children may participate in procession (34)</p> <p>Important first orientation for children</p> <p>Priest may use his own words (23) Melodies with adapted words may be used (31)</p> <p>Must always complete Introductory Rites (40) Text of prayer may be selected from Missal (50) or even adapted (51)</p>
<p><b>The Liturgy of the Word</b></p> <p>First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia) Gospel</p> <p>Homily</p> <p>Creed</p> <p>Bidding Prayers</p>	<p><b>The Liturgy of the Word</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readings may be reduced to one or two (if one, always the gospel) (42)</li> <li>• Readings may be substituted (from Lectionary or from Bible) (43)</li> <li>• Readings may be judiciously edited (43)</li> <li>• Paraphrase to be avoided (45)</li> <li>• Approved translations (45) [JB, RSV, GNB for children's Masses]</li> <li>• Introductory commentary may precede readings (47)</li> <li>• Life of Saint before readings (47)</li> <li>• Readings may be done dramatically in parts (47)</li> </ul> <p>Children may participate in gospel procession (34)</p> <p>"Homily" may be given by approved adult (24) Homily may be in dialogue form (48)</p> <p>Melodies with adapted words may be used (31) Apostles' Creed may be used (49 + now has general permission for all Masses) Question &amp; Answer Creed (Easter Mass)</p>
<b>The Liturgy of the Eucharist</b>	<b>The Liturgy of the Eucharist</b>

<p>Procession of Gifts + Song Preparation of Gifts Invitation (Pray my friends ...) Prayer over Gifts</p> <p>Preface Sanctus</p> <p>Eucharistic Prayer</p> <p>Introduction to the Lord's Prayer The Lord's Prayer</p> <p>Sign of Peace</p> <p>Agnus Dei Invitation Behold the Lamb ... Communion</p> <p>Post Communion Prayer</p>	<p>Children may participate in procession (34)</p> <p>Priest may use his own words (23) Text of prayer may be selected from Missal (50) or even adapted (51)</p> <p>Melodies with adapted words may be used (31)</p> <p>Chosen from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Main EPs (new missal)</li> <li>• 3 EPs for Children (no new translation as yet)</li> <li>• 2 EPs for Reconciliation (new missal)</li> <li>• 4 EPs for Special Needs and Occasions (new missal)</li> </ul> <p>Priest may use his own words (23)</p> <p>Priest may use his own words (23)</p> <p>Melodies with adapted words may be used (31) Priest may use his own words (23) Calm &amp; recollection going to communion (54)</p> <p>Text of prayer may be selected from Missal (50) or even adapted (51)</p>
<p><b>The Concluding Rites</b></p> <p>Blessing Dismissal</p>	<p><b>The Concluding Rites</b> Repetition and application (very few words!) (54)</p>

- Consideration of the place for celebrating Mass (25)
- Importance of priest's manner and preparation (23)
- Adults are present not as monitors but genuine participants and role models (24)
- Ensuring a variety of voices (24)
- Don't always have a Mass – consider paraliturgical celebrations linked with planned Masses (27)
- Use of recorded music (32)
- Use of posture and gesture by children (33)
- Use of processions including children (entrance, gospel, offertory, communion) (34)
- Use of visual elements (including artwork by children) (35, 36)
- Place of silence (but children need to be guided into it) (37)
- Importance of calm and reverence especially at communion (52, 54)