

Listing of Mass Forms from the front matter of the "Marian Missal"
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HOOR OF CELEBRATION. In the first ages there was no fixed time for the celebration of Mass. Later on, the hour, on Sundays and festivals, was after the Office (or Hour) of Terce, or about 9 a.m.; on certain weekdays after Sext, or soon after mid-day; on fast days after None, or about 3 p.m. At present, and for several centuries back, the hours during which Mass can be celebrated have been limited practically, (by those using a Latin Liturgy), to between dawn and mid-day; and even on days when the Rubrics still direct that Mass is to be said on days when after Sext or None, Mass is not celebrated in the afternoon, but those Offices are anticipated instead.

DISTINCTIONS IN RITE, etc. The differences in the rites and ceremonies used at Mass, and the circumstances in which Mass is celebrated, give rise to distinctions which may be classed and described as follows:

(a) In a High or Solemn Mass in Latin "Missa Solemnis" the priest (termed the Celebrant) is assisted by a Deacon and a subdeacon (whose functions during Mass are now generally performed by priests acting in their stead for the time being) ; six or more candles are lighted on the Altar, besides others borne by acolytes: incense and music are used; portions of the Mass are sung by the priest and his assistants, each singly, and other portions by the choir.

(b) A Pontifical Mass is a High Mass celebrated by a Bishop (or a mitred Abbot) with special ceremonies. Certain Prelates of the Pope's Household have the privilege of occasionally celebrating High Mass very much after the manner of Bishops.

(c) A Missa Cantata is in the nature of a High Mass, and in churches where the clergy is insufficient, takes the place of the Missa Solemnis. The celebrant sings certain parts, but he is not assisted by Deacon or sub-deacon; and if incense is used, it is by privilege.

(d) A Low Mass (Missa Privata) is one the whole of which is read, and not sung, by the celebrant. There is neither incense, liturgical singing, nor any of the solemnities of High Mass.

(e) The Parochial Mass is the principal Mass, whether High or Low, on Sundays, in a Parish Church. Parishioners are exhorted to assist when possible at this Mass, during which the Parish Notices and Banns of Marriage are usually published, and a sermon is preached.

(f) The Conventual Mass is the Mass said or sung in conjunction with the Breviary Office, by the Chapter and Clergy of a Cathedral or Collegiate Church, or the community of a Monastery or Convent. It is said, according to the Office of the day, after either Terce, Sext, or None, and is offered for Benefactors. A Capitular Mass is the Conventual Mass of a Cathedral or Collegiate Chapter.

(g) A Votive Mass is one said, outside the Office of the day, for a particular purpose, public or private, as, for instance, for the needs of the Church, the preservation of public peace, the safety of travelers, the sick, etc.

(h) A Requiem Mass, so called from the first word of the Introit, is a Mass for the Dead. (A Dirige, so called from the first word of the first Anthem, 'Dirige Domine', is the Office of Matins and Lauds for the Dead also called the Watches, from being sung at night.)