



PONTIFICIA COMMISSIO
« ECCLESIA DEI »

N. 40/97

Rome, 26 March 1997

His Excellency

AUSTRALIA

Your Lordship,

This Pontifical Commission has received your letter of 17 February 1997 in which you raise a number of matters regarding the use of the *Missale Romanum* of 1962. We will respond to the queries in the order in which you have raised them.

1. This Pontifical Commission sees no difficulty in the celebrant's reading an approved vernacular translation of the Epistle and Gospel proper to the 1962 Missal while otherwise adhering to the rubrics laid down in the *Ritus Servandus*.

2. Concerning the celebration of Solemn Pontifical and Solemn Masses:

a.) This Pontifical Commission sees no difficulty in the celebrant and ministers joining in the singing of a plainchant *Gloria* or *Credo* together with the schola cantorum and the congregation instead of reading them privately as directed by the *Ritus Servandus*. This usage was already admitted by the Church a relatively short time after the publication of the 1962 *Roman Missal*. The same holds true, *mutatis mutandis* for the *Missa Cantata*.

b.) This Pontifical Commission sees no difficulty in the entire congregation's singing of the *Pater Noster* in all sung Masses.

With regard to all of the above matters this Pontifical Commission has already made similar provision for the Conventual Masses celebrated in Benedictine Abbeys in France which have been granted the use of the liturgical books in force in 1962. We include a copy of that provision for Your Lordship's information and believe that it may be readily applied to parochial situations as well.

3. This Pontifical Commission sees no difficulty in the use of the Prefaces which Your Lordship has indicated since they were once permitted by indults of the Congregation of Rites. Furthermore, the very rich prefaces of the Missal of Pope Paul



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VI could equally be used for the appropriate Masses in the 1962 *Roman Missal*. Even though the original Indult *Quattuor Abhinc Annos* of 3 October 1984 insisted that "there must be no interchanging of texts and rites of the two Missals", this Pontifical Commission has consistently argued that in the light of the "wide and generous application of the directives already issued ... for the use of the Roman Missal according to the typical edition of 1962" (*Ecclesia Dei* 6, c) such usage would be fully acceptable.

Wishing Your Lordship a Blessed Eastertide and grateful for your collaboration with this Pontifical Commission for the benefit of those who are attached to the Latin liturgical tradition, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Angelo Cardinal Felici
President

Msgr. Camille Perl
Secretary

enc.