



DIOCESE OF BUFFALO  
OFFICE OF WORSHIP

## **Update to the Roman Missal and Other Liturgical Books to be implemented February 17, 2021 (Ash Wednesday)**

In May 2020, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments wrote to the English-speaking Conferences of Bishops regarding the concluding doxology of the Collects in the Roman Missal. It noted that the current translation – which concludes “... in the unity of the Holy Spirit, **one** God, for ever and ever” – is incorrect. There is no mention of “one” in the Latin, and “Deus” in the Latin text refers to Christ.

The correct translation, which is already in use in the Missal in other languages, is simply: “[...] in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.”

On February 4, 2021, this change was communicated in a note from the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship.

**While the purchase of a new missal is not required, celebrants should be aware that this change should be implemented by simply omitting the word “one” beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021. This change applies to the Roman Missal and any other liturgical book where this formula is used.**

Please see below for the complete text of the note.



## Committee on Divine Worship

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### **Note on a change to the translation of Collect prayers**

In May of 2020 the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments wrote to the English-speaking Conferences of Bishops regarding the concluding doxology of the Collects in the *Roman Missal* (which also appear in other liturgical books).

Specifically, the Congregation pointed out that the current translation – which concludes “[...] **in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever**” – is incorrect. There is no mention of “one” in the Latin, and “Deus” in the Latin text refers to Christ. Therefore, the correct translation, which is already reflected in the Missal in other languages (including our own USCCB *Misal Romano*) is simply: “[...] **in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.**” The Cardinal Prefect has pointed out the importance of affirming this Christological truth amid the religious pluralism of today’s world.

English translations of the Missal for use by the faithful prior to the Second Vatican Council reflected the correct translation, as for example the St. Joseph’s Missals of the 1950’s. However, when the post-conciliar texts were published in English, the word “one” was added.

It should be noted that when the translation of the Missal currently in use was in progress, ICEL pointed out the discrepancy to the Congregation in Rome, but was told to retain the use of “one God” in the new translation.

In light of the Congregation’s most recent direction in this matter, the Latin Rite Bishops of the USCCB have voted to amend no. 54 of the U.S. text of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* to reflect the change, and the Congregation has confirmed this decision, as it already has for the Episcopal Conferences of England and Wales, Ireland, and Canada.

**This change to the concluding doxology of orations is to be implemented on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021. The words “one God, for ever and ever” are simply replaced with “God, for ever and ever.”**

February 4, 2021