

# **Gospels for the Liturgical Year – Short Course – ACU Centre for Liturgy & Garratt Publishing**

## **Week 1 – General Introduction Notes – Professor Clare Johnson**

### **The Lectionary**

- Liturgical book that contains the sequence of readings from Sacred Scripture that are to be proclaimed aloud at public worship
- Related to the seasons and feasts of the Liturgical Year
- Our stories – the stories of who we are as God's people
- Provides continuity and uniformity in choice and use of texts across the church
- Lectionaries are the creations of churches – “Scriptures are inspired; lectionaries are not” (Kate Dooley)
- Current Lectionary in place since 1969

### **Origins...**

- First century Synagogue practices – continuous reading of the Scriptures (*lectio continua*)
- As Liturgical Year developed, certain readings became associated with particular feasts/occasions
- Early communities marked their manuscripts to indicate where passages to be read aloud began and ended
- Excerpts eventually compiled into separate collections ordered according to the feast/occasion – beginning of the Lectionary as we know it today

### **Liturgical Year had its main structure by 600CE**

- Seasonally related activities
- Christianisation of time
- Temporal cycle (life of Christ; and ferias – ordinary days)
- Feria = days of the week other than Sundays = weekday liturgies (replaced by Saints if Solemnities/Feasts/Memorials or Optional Memorials)
- Sanctoral cycle (feasts of saints, common of saints, memorials of martyrs, virgins, etc.)

### **Main Structure of the Liturgical Year in place by 600CE**

- Advent – 4 weeks prior to Christmas
- December 25: Nativity of Christ
- Octave of the Nativity
- January 6: Epiphany
- Ordinary Time (1): 6 weeks punctuated by 6 Sundays after Epiphany with the feast of the Annunciation on March 25
- Paschal Cycle:
  - Septuagesima: 70 days before Easter, marked by Septuagesima Sunday
  - Sexagesima: 60 days before Easter, marked by Sexagesima Sunday
  - Quinquagesima: 50 days before Easter, marked by Quinquagesima Sunday
- Lent
- Ash Wednesday or Quadragesima: 40 days before Easter
- Paschal Time
- Holy Week
- Palm Sunday (entrance of Christ into Jerusalem)
- Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday (Resurrection)
- Ascension: 40 days after Easter
- Pentecost: 50 days after Easter
- Ordinary Time (2)
- 25-32 weeks after Pentecost, punctuated by the Sundays after Pentecost

### **The Lectionary**

- Ordered collection of readings for proclamation within Catholic liturgies
- In Australia the Lectionary is comprised of 3 volumes:
  - I: Sundays and Proper of Seasons
  - II: Weekdays, Proper of Saints, Commons
  - III: Rituals, Various Needs, Votives, Masses for the Dead

## **Gospels for the Liturgical Year – Short Course – ACU Centre for Liturgy & Garratt Publishing**

### **Week 1 – General Introduction Notes – Professor Clare Johnson**

- In the 3 volumes of the Lectionary together:
  - about 90% of the Gospels are covered;
  - 55% of the rest of NT;
  - about 13% of OT
- Comprehensive way to read much of the bible within a 3-year period
- **Jerusalem Bible** is the translation used in the Lectionary in Australia at present
- Other English-speaking countries use different translations – so ensure you are using the right one!
- A new translation of the Lectionary is presently being worked on by the ACBC (Revised New Jerusalem translation of the Bible)

#### **Vol I: The Sunday Lectionary**

- **Year A** MATTHEW   Advent 2022 to Christ the King 2023
- **Year B** MARK       Advent 2023 to Christ the King 2024
- **Year C** LUKE        Advent 2024 to Christ the King 2025
- John is used each year (mostly Lent & Easter)
- Currently in Year C (Advent 2021 to Christ the King 2022)

#### **Vol II: The Weekday Lectionary**

- Weekdays Year I = Odd-numbered years; 2023 Weekday Year I
- Weekdays Year II = Even-numbered years; 2024 Weekday Year II
- Proper of Saints
- Commons

#### **Vol III: Rituals, Votives, Various Needs, Masses for the Dead**

- Ritual Masses (sacraments, rites of religious profession, etc.)
- Masses for Various Needs (for peace, the sick, thanksgiving, etc.)
- Votive Masses (in honour of the Trinity, Sacred Heart, Apostles, Holy Spirit, etc.)
- Masses for the Dead (as needed)

#### **Solemnities, Feasts, Memorials**

- Special liturgical occasions are ranked according to their importance as solemnity, feast or memorial (obligatory or optional)
- “The Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar” (UNLY) explain each of these types of celebrations

#### **Solemnities**

- Most important days of the Liturgical Year
- Easter, Pentecost, Christmas, Immaculate Conception, Christ the King, All Souls, Assumption, and some saints (e.g., St. Mary of the Cross, August 8, in Australia)
- Solemnities are the principal days of the calendar and they begin with Evening Prayer 1 on the preceding day
- Some also have their own vigil Mass (e.g., Pentecost)
- Easter and Christmas are the two greatest solemnities & are celebrated over an octave (eight days)

#### **Feasts**

- Celebrate a mystery or title of Christ (e.g., Transfiguration) or Mary (e.g., Visitation, May 31) or a saint of specific significance such as one of the evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, or Apostles) or a saint of particular historical importance (e.g., St Mary Magdalene).
- Feasts “are celebrated within the limits of the natural day” and have Proper Prayers, 2 readings and the Gloria assigned to them for inclusion in the liturgy

#### **Memorials**

- Usually celebrate saints, but can also celebrate an aspect of Christ or Mary (e.g., the Holy Name of Jesus – optional; or Immaculate Heart of Mary - obligatory)

## **Gospels for the Liturgical Year – Short Course – ACU Centre for Liturgy & Garratt Publishing**

### **Week 1 – General Introduction Notes – Professor Clare Johnson**

- **Obligatory Memorial:** priests celebrating Mass must celebrate using the prayers designated for that occasion and those celebrating the Liturgy of the Hours must celebrate that Memorial rather than the regular weekday prayers.
- **Optional Memorial:** may be celebrated but are not required to be celebrated. Generally less well-known saints or occasions of less significance

#### **Ordo**

- Ordo = annual calendar containing details for how Mass is to be celebrated for each day of the Liturgical Year
- Published by Liturgy Brisbane - MUST HAVE resource! (either in hard copy or electronic version)

#### **Masses for Sundays & Major Feasts**

- 3 readings
- First Reading (OT, except Acts during Easter Time)
- Responsorial Psalm (mostly from book of Psalms, with some other biblical Canticles on occasion)
- Second Reading (NT, mostly Paul's epistles; sometimes other NT epistles & book of Revelation)
- Gospel Acclamation (usually a direct biblical quotation)
- Gospel:
  - Year A = Matthew
  - Year B = Mark (mostly + John)
  - Year C = Luke
  - John is used mostly in Lent and Easter in all three years
- Normally there is a thematic connection between the First Reading & Gospel
- The second reading is usually unrelated as it follows the semi-continuous pattern

#### **Weekday Masses, Lesser Feasts & Special Occasions**

- 2 readings
- **First Reading:** semi-continuous alternating between OT & NT in a 2-year cycle (Year I, Year II)
- Responsorial Psalm (mostly from Book of Psalms, sometimes other Canticles; 2-year cycle)
- Gospel Acclamation
- **Gospel** (same in Years I & II; semi-continuous readings from Mark, Matthew, Luke – in that order)

#### **What is catechesis?**

- Combination of two Greek words: *kata* (down) *echein* (to sound)
- Greek word: *katechein* (catechesis in English) means to 'sound down'
- Tradition: we hand down the truths of our faith to those who come after us

#### **Lectionary-based catechesis**

- Uses the contents of the Lectionary as a guide & scaffold for exploring major themes of Christian belief  
*Directory for Masses with Children #8* "A fully Christian life is inconceivable without participation in the liturgical services in which the faithful, gathered into a single assembly, celebrate the paschal mystery."
- Allow the liturgy to be a key source for RE and catechetical education
- Move from classroom to celebration to living

#### ***Celebrating the Lectionary***

- Faith formation based on the Lectionary and Liturgical Year
- Each Sunday, Solemnities, Holydays, Feasts, National Days of Prayer
- 15-20 minute session
- Supplement core RE curriculum
- Connects students to the Word encountered in the liturgy with daily life
- Links school, home, parish life

**Gospels for the Liturgical Year – Short Course – ACU Centre for Liturgy & Garratt Publishing**  
Week 1 – General Introduction Notes – Professor Clare Johnson

**Adaptations to the original US version**

1. Alignment to Australian liturgical calendar
2. Use of Australian Lectionary translation
3. Alignment of pericopes, psalm numbers, Lectionary Volume numbering to Australian Lectionary. Use of *Lectionary for Mass* (not *Lectionary for Masses with Children* because these books are intended for those 10 and over – only under 10s can use LMC when majority of assembly is under 10).
4. 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter is Ascension Sunday in Australia (in USA Ascension is still on a Thursday so the USA has a 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter while we don't)
5. Additional sessions on Saints, Australian/New Zealand Solemnities, National Days of Prayer. Range of Saints (30 different Saints; variety; male & female)
6. Language, colloquial expressions, cultural examples, seasonal references changed from USA to Australia/NZ.
7. Books rearranged so they accord with Liturgical Year not US school year.

**Who are these books for?**

- Classroom teachers
- Catechists
- Those preparing children for Christian Initiation
- Those who run Children's Liturgy of the Word (during Sunday Mass)
- Clergy