

# Catechesis on the Revised Mass Texts: GLORY TO GOD

The Gloria that we sing at Mass will be changing in some of its phrases as we use the new revised Mass texts. This has often been called the Angelic Hymn, as it begins with the words that the angels sang when the birth of Christ was announced to shepherds in Luke 2:14. Other verses were added very early, forming a doxology, in the 4th century this became part of morning prayers and is still used in the Byzantine Rite Orthros service every morning, where we use it for Sundays and Feastdays.

This hymn of praise is structured in three stanzas of acclamation. In the first stanza we sing praise to God the Father. In the second and third stanzas we praise God the Son, praising Christ in both his divine and human nature.

There are several changes from the text we have been using, at the opening we will sing '*Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will.*' This follows the original Greek text more closely and also translates the Latin more precisely.

Then we focus on five moments of praise, where we sing:

*We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks.....* This is a more direct translation of the Latin text and emphasises more fully the dynamic movement of this prayer.

We will also pray:

*Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.* This phrase is very familiar with the revised phrase Only Begotten Son connecting to the same phrase in our Creed. All of these titles point towards the divinity of Jesus whom we praise and adore in this hymn.

We also sing *You take away the sins of the world.* This links into a piece of scripture from the Gospel of John 1:29, where John the Baptist declares who Jesus is for all his disciples to see. This phrase recurs again when we pray the Agnus Dei and in the invitation to Holy Communion. Jesus came not just to save us from the generic condition of sin but from actual sins and that's why in the new translation this phrase is always translated in the plural.

REFLECTION:

- *How do you give glory to God in your life?*
- *What's the difference between praising, blessing, adoring, glorifying and thanking God?*