

# PONTIFICAL SOLEMN MASS AT THE THRONE

## I. The Vesting of the Bishop:

A. All ministers should be completely vested (except for maniples) before the Bishop's arrival in the sacristy.

## B. Order of vesting the Bishop:

1. Amice
2. Alb
3. Cincture
4. Pectoral Cross
5. Stole
6. Tunic
7. Dalmatic
8. Gloves
9. Chasuble
10. Precious Mitre
11. Pontifical Ring
12. Crozier

C. After the **Bishop (B)** has received the Pontifical Ring, the **Thurifer (Th)** approaches. (**Mc I**) and (**Th**) kneeling, incense is imposed, the Assistant Priest (**AP**) assisting using the form *Benedicite Pater Reverendissime*. The (**Th**) goes to the head of the procession carrying the thurible in his right hand.

D. The **Crozier-bearer (Cb)** brings the crozier to the (**B**); he presents it kneeling on his left knee, kissing first the crozier, then the Pontifical ring.

## F. Arrival in the Sanctuary:

1. The (**Th**) genuflects and goes to his place near credence I.
2. The **Acolytes (Ac)** genuflect, and assume their places near credence I. The **cross-bearer (Cb)** bows and goes to his place at the gospel side of the sanctuary.
3. **Torch-bearers** genuflect two by two, bow to each other and go to their places.
4. The **Masters of Ceremonies (Mc)** separate and stand at the extremities of the altar facing each other.
5. The **Subdeacon (SD)** -- bearing the Evangelarium containing (**B's**) maniple -- goes to the left and slightly behind the place where the **Deacon (D)** will stand. He presents the Evangelarium to (**Mc II**), unless birettas are used (cf. #10 below).
6. The (**D**) goes to the left, standing to the right of (**SD**), slightly in front of him and slightly behind the place where the (**B**) will stand.
7. The (**AP**) goes to the right, slightly behind the place where the (**B**) will stand. (**B**) goes to the centre.
9. The **Assistant deacons (AD)** stand behind (**B**).
- (10.) (**Mc I**) takes the birettas of (**AP**) and (**ADs**) to the throne; (**Mc II**) takes those of (**D**) and (**SD**) to the sedilia. Upon returning to his place before the altar, (**Mc II**) takes the Evangelarium from the (**SD**).
11. Upon entering the sanctuary the (**Mb**) and the (**Cb**) switch sides. The (**Cb**) immediately approaches the (**B**) who gives him the crozier.

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12. Meanwhile **(Mb)** approaches **(D)** who removes the Mitre and gives it to the **(Mb)**. **(Mb)** and **(Cb)** step back to the centre. All genuflect. **(Mb)** and **(Cb)** go to their places. **Bookbearer (Bb)** and **bugia bearer (Bub)** kneel by credence II. So Mass begins

*N.B. In all that follows, the usual ceremonies of Solemn Mass are supposed, except where a difference is noted.*

### II. The Beginning of Mass:

A. After the prayer *Indulgentiam*, **(D)** steps back, **(SD)** takes maniple from **(Mc II)**, kisses it on the side, presents the cross to **(B)** to be kissed, kisses **(B's)** hand, puts maniple on **(B)**. The prayers resume.

B. When **(B)** goes up to the altar **(AP)** passes behind him to his left, **(D)** to his right. **(SD)** takes the Evangelarium from **(Mc II)** and ascends the altar. **(Mc II)** goes to the gospel side of the altar where he stands on the first step below the predella.

C. **(B)** kisses altar. **(SD)** presents Evangelarium open to Gospel of Mass (the beginning of which will be indicated by **(AP)**). **(B)** kisses Gospel laying both hands on book. **(SD)** gives book to **(Mc II)** who puts it on credence I. **(Mc II)** then stands in the area of the credence awaiting the incensation of the **(B)**.

D. **(AP)** descends *in plano* and stands between **(ADs)**.

E. Altar is incensed as usual.

F. Before **(B)** is incensed **(AD I)** gives him the Mitre. right of and slightly behind the **(D)**. After **(D)** Meanwhile, **(Mc II)** comes to the left of and slightly behind the **(SD)** and the **(Th)** comes to the incenses **(B)**, **(B)** blesses him.

### III. The Bishop goes to the Throne:

A. From the epistle corner **(B)** bows to the altar Cross, receives the crosier, descends *in plano*, genuflects and goes to the throne.

B. At the throne **(B)** gives crosier to **(Cb)**, sits momentarily while **(AD II)** removes Mitre giving it to **(Mb)**. **(Mb)** exchanges the precious Mitre for the golden Mitre.

C. **(Bb)** and **(Bub)** come before **(B)**, genuflect, and hold book (missal) and candle. **(B)** reads Introit; says *Kýrie* alternating with those around him. **(D)** and **(SD)** say *Kýrie* alternating with each other at the sedilia.

### IV. Gloria:

A. If the sung *Kýrie* will take a long time **(B)** may now sit with Mitre and gremial which he will receive from **(AD I)**.

*N.B.* The **(B)** receives the Mitre first and then the gremial from **(AD I)**. They will be removed by **(AD II)** beginning with the gremial and ending with the Mitre. This is always the order.

B. When sung *Kýrie* is finished **(AP)** holds the book standing between **(Bb)** and **(Bub)**. *N.B.* **(AP)** always holds the book when **(B)** sings from it, but he does not receive it from **(Bb)** until after the initial reverence to **(B)**, and he returns it to him before the final reverence.

C. The **(B)** standing without Mitre, intones *Gloria* (if it occurs).

D. **(Bb)** takes book from **(AP)** and holds it during recitation of the *Gloria*. After which **(Bb)** and **(Bub)** genuflect, and turn in order to sit. They are immediately joined by **(MB)** and **(Cb)**.

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- E. **(B)** sits, receives the Mitre and gremial from **(AD I)**. All others then sit.  
F. Towards the end of the sung *Gloria*, all stand, except **(B)**.

### V. The Collects:

- A. **(Bb)** and **(Bub)** bring missal and candle. **(AD II)** removes gremial and Mitre. **(AP)** holds book.  
B. **(B)** stands, turns towards people, sings Pax Vobis. **(B)** bows to altar at *Oremus*; sings Collect.  
C. **(Mc II)** brings Epistolarium to **(SD)** at sedilia.  
D. At the end of last Collect **(B)** sits, is covered, and receives gremial.  
E. **(SD)** genuflects to **(B)**, then to altar; sings Epistle.  
F. After Epistle all those around **(B)** stand; **(SD)**, accompanied by **(Mc II)**, comes to **(B)**, reverences, kneels placing book on **(B's)** knees; kisses **(B's)** hand and receives his blessing. He reverences and returns to sedilia.  
G. **(Bb)** and **(Bub)** come before **(B)**; reverence and kneel. **(B)** seated and mitred, reads Gradual, etc.

### VI. The Gospel:

- A. Towards the end of the sung Gradual (etc.), **(D)** receives Evangelarium from **(Mc II)**, and reverencing **(B)** and the altar, lays it on the altar.  
B. Genuflecting on the predella **(D)** goes *per brevior* to **(B)** and kisses his hand.  
C. **(D)** then kneels on bottom step of altar, slightly towards the epistle side, and prays *Munda Cor*. He then gets book and stands *in plano* where he is joined by **(SD)**, **(Mc II)** and both **(Acs)** with candles.  
D. Meanwhile **(Th)** goes to throne after **(D)** has placed the book on the altar. After **(D)** has kissed **(B's)** hand, **(B)** puts on incense assisted by **(AP)**. **(Th)** joins Gospel procession:  
E. All genuflect and go to throne: All genuflect to **(B)** and kneel as **(D)** kneels to receive blessing. (*Jube. Domne. benedicere*) **N.B.** **(D)** kneels on the first step and does not kiss **(B's)** hand again.  
F. All rise, genuflect, and go to the place where the Gospel is to be sung.  
G. Before **(D)** sings *Dominus Vobiscum*, the gremial and Mitre are removed from **(B)**. **(B)** stands retaining his skullcap. **(B)** takes crosier in left hand, makes signs of the Cross with right hand; then, holding crosier with both hands, listens to Gospel.  
**N.B.** **(D)** must not begin the Gospel until **(B)** is ready.  
H. After Gospel **(B)** gives up crosier. **(SD)** brings book to be kissed by **(B)**. **(Th)** then gives thurible to **(AP)** who incenses **(B)**.  
I. Meanwhile **(D)**, **(Mc II)** and both **(Acs)** return to their places.

### VII. The Creed: - As at *Gloria*.

- N.B.** **(Bb)** and **(Bub)** do not genuflect during recited Creed.

### VIII. The Offertory:

- A. After the sung Creed, gremial and Mitre are removed, **(B)** reads Offertory standing. **(B)** sits, receives precious Mitre. **(AP)** removes and holds ring, then both

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(ADs) remove gloves which (Mc I) receives on a salver. Both (Acs) come with ewer, basin, and two towels. (AD I) spreads a towel on (B's) knees, (AP) holds other towel. All near the throne kneel as (B) washes hands. (AP) replaces ring on the (B's) bare hand.

B. (AP) takes missal with stand from (Bb). (AP) goes to altar. (Bb) and (Bub) follow. (These latter go to the gospel side of the altar).

C. (AP) places book on altar, waits on gospel side of predella for (B).

D. (Bub) leaves candle on mensa, then returns to floor beside (Bb).

E. When the (Acs) have returned to the credence, (D) goes to epistle side of altar before the steps to await (B). (SD) then goes to credence accompanied by (Mc II), to get chalice.

### IX. Bishop goes to Altar:

A. (B) rises, takes crosier, goes to altar, (Mb) and (Cb) follow.

B. At foot of altar (B) gives up crosier, (D) removes Mitre. All genuflect. (B) goes up to altar, (D) on his rig

C. Both (ADs) go to either corner of altar steps. (Mb) and (Cb) stand behind them:

D. (SD) brings chalice to altar when (B) has arrived.

E. When (SD) takes the chalice to the altar (Ac I) follow; bearing the cruets on their tray. He leaves these on the altar, and then descend *in plano* where they wait at the foot of the steps. Rest as usual for Solemn Mass.

### XI. Incensation:

A. (AP) removes book from altar.

B. (AD I) gives (B) Mitre before he is incensed.

C. (AP) assists with towel at Lavabo. (Mc I) brings Canon to epistle side for psalm. (AD II) removes Mitre before (B) says "Gloria" of Lavabo psalm. (D) incenses: (B), (AP), (AD I), (AD II), then as normal.

### XII. Preface:

A. After the secrets, (AP) changes the missal for the Pontifical Canon, [(Mc I) handing him the Canon behind (B's) back] giving missal to (Mc II) who places it on Credence II.

B. (Mc I) takes skull-cap to credence I.

C. For the Sanctus (D) is to right of (B), (AP) to left. (SD) remains *in plano*.

D. During Canon (AP) is at the book, (D) is behind (B).

E. For Consecration (AP) and (D) hold chasuble. The (ADs) kneel on the lowest step at either side of (SD).

F. (D) always uncovers chalice.

G. (Mc I) takes humeral veil from (SD) at Pater, giving it to (Ac I).

### XII. Agnus Dei and Pax:

A. Agnus Dei is said as was the Sanctus. B. Then, (AP) and (D) genuflect, switch sides, and upon genuflecting again (AP) kisses the altar with (B), the former not laying his hands on it. He bows profoundly to (B) before and after receiving Pax.

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- C. After **(AP)** receives Pax, he genuflects, descends the front of the altar obliquely and genuflects with **(Mc II)**. He then goes with **(Mc II)** to give the Pax to the priests in choir. **(AP)** gives Pax to **(Mc II)**. **(Mc II)** gives Pax to the rest of the choir.
- D. Both **(ADs)**, **(D)** and **(SD)** now go to **(B's)** right in turn and receive Pax from **(B)** each genuflecting before and after, but not kissing the altar
- E. **(SD)** gives Pax to **(Mc I)**.
- F. Then **(AP)** goes to book, **(D)** to **(B's)** right.
- G. As soon as **(D)** uncovers chalice after the consumption of the sacred Host **(AP)** genuflects and stands on first step below the predella on the gospel side facing across to the epistle side. **(SD)** goes up to **(B's)** left. **(ADs)** coming together in the centre genuflect each on one knee and go to the throne. At the Confiteor the **(AP)** and **(ADs)** kneel. When **(B)** leaves the sanctuary to distribute communion, the **(ADs)** sit. They again kneel when **(B)** returns to the sanctuary.

### XIV. After Communion to the End of Mass:

#### A. When tabernacle is closed:

1. **(ADs)** rise and, having genuflected in the centre, resume their positions before the altar.
  2. **(SD)** goes to gospel corner of the predella to await the chalice.
  3. **(AP)** rises and puts Pontifical Canon in centre of altar, assisted by **(D)**. He then puts missal (brought by **Mc II**) on stand; transfers missal to epistle side. **(AP)** stands ready for washing of **(B's)** hands.
  4. **(Mb)** and **(Cb)** go to their places at the epistle side of the sanctuary.
  5. **(D)** pours for the ablutions. **N. B.** He must be sure to leave the pall on the corporal.
  6. **(Mc I)** replaces the skullcap after the consumption of the first ablution.
- B. **(B)** receives Mitre from **(D)**; washes hands at epistle side.
- C. **(D)** removes Mitre. He then stands behind **(B)** on first step below the predella.
- D. The rest as usual.
- E. During the singing of Ite, Missa est, **(Mb)** and **(Cb)** approach the altar.
- F. After singing the Ite **(D)** turns to his left and receives the Mitre, remaining on the second step.
- G. After the Placeat, **(D)** puts Mitre on **(B)**, then goes to his place at the edge of the predella for the blessing.

#### Last Blessing:

- H. **(B)**, just before singing the word Pater of the blessing, turns and takes crosier.
- I. **(B)** gives crosier to **(Cb)**, **(D)** removes Mitre and holds it. Meanwhile, **(SD)** coming to **(B's)** left holds the Canon -- open at the Last Gospel -- in the centre of the altar slightly turned towards the gospel side.
- J. **(B)** says Dominus Vobiscum and title of the Last Gospel. **(SD)** then closes the Canon and replaces it before the tabernacle. **(B)** then receives Mitre from **(D)** and descends in plano. **(D)** and **(SD)** descend behind **(B)** crossing over to the gospel side. **(Th)** approaches and **(B)** puts on incense assisted by **(AP)**. The procession is formed. **(B)** receives crosier. All genuflect and process back to sacristy, **(B)** reciting Last Gospel to himself as they go. Upon arrival in the sacristy all genuflect as **(B)** says, "Et Verbum Caro Factum Est." All bow to the Cross and then to **(B)**; all kneel for **(B's)** blessing