

# Why learn to say the Traditional Latin Mass ?

Father Faber, the saintly 19th-century Oratorian, considered it "the most beautiful thing this side of heaven" ; Cardinal Newman appreciated its qualities which allow us to 'see' the eternal and the supernatural ; saints were enraptured by it ; martyrs gave their lives for it ; seminaries were filled to overflowing with young men willing to adopt a life of celibacy in order to celebrate it; but let us not forget that the souls of countless millions of ordinary faithful throughout the world and for many centuries including our own times have been nourished, consoled , inspired and set on fire by it.

**What is it about the form of the Traditional Latin (Tridentine) Mass that has such an ability to attract people of diverse ages and cultures, and influences them to appreciate it as a treasure of inestimable value, a sublime gift of God to His Church?**

If you have ever wondered what lies at the heart of this phenomenon that grew and flourished in the bosom of the Church and is still capable of invigorating the faithful with undiminished vitality, this book is a source of enlightenment. For it sets out, more convincingly than any amount of polemics, the real and fundamental reasons for the perennial attraction of the traditional Latin Mass. This it does by offering the would-be celebrant something irreplaceable - a hands-on experience of the ancient Roman Missal, the patrimony of every priest of the Roman rite, wherein he can learn the language of the Church and see for himself how the Sacred Mysteries are presented.

Some things are too beautiful to be forgotten. This is certainly true of the Mass which Pope St Pius V decreed should remain unchanged until the end of the world. It is still true even though in recent times some people, for inscrutable reasons of their own, would have it disappear from the face of the earth. Here we are faced with a question of great import which has momentous consequences for us all : which side are *you* on?

In her treatment of the sacrosanct area of the traditional Latin Mass Dr Byrne directs us inexorably to the uncomfortable conclusion that *there can be no middle-of-the-way compromise solution*, no justification for arbitrary manipulation of the sacred rites, no tampering with the spiritual heritage

**that involves the Faith and therefore our salvation, and leaves us with the supremely confident assurance that this *is* "the most beautiful thing this side of heaven", this *is* the Mass of All Ages, this *is* the Mass that will not die.**