

## PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

The best way to gain an accurate pronunciation of liturgical Latin is to imitate the spoken word. There are only a few differences between the way in which some letters are pronounced in Latin and English, and although this is not an exhaustive list, the main differences are summarised as follows:

- C** as K e.g. *corp*us (body)  
*calix* (chalice)  
*cum* (with)  
 but before E (AE) or I, as **CH**, e.g. *caecus* (blind) pronounced CHAY-CUS  
*cibus* (food) pronounced CHEE-BUS
- NEVER as S.
- CH** as K e.g. *Christus* (Christ)  
*Michael Archangelus* (Michael the Archangel)
- G** as G in 'gate' e.g.  
*rogamus* (we ask)  
 but before E or I, as J in 'joy' e.g. *Evangelium* (the Gospel)  
*igitur* (therefore)
- GN** as NI in 'onion' e.g. *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God)  
*dignus* (worthy)
- J** as Y in 'yet' e.g. *Joannis* (John)  
*Judica me, Deus* (Judge me, O God)
- T** as in English but when followed by I the combination sounds like TSEE  
 e.g. *oratio* (prayer) pronounced ORAT-SEE-O  
*gratias* (thanks) pronounced GRAT-SEE-AS
- TH** as T in English e.g. *thronum* (throne)  
*cithara* (harp)
- Z** as DZ, e.g. *baptizare* (to baptise) pronounced BAP-TID-SARE  
 But as Z in English at the beginning of a word e.g. Zachariah

### N.B. Combination of certain vowels

**ii** - When the letter *i* is followed immediately by another *i* each must be pronounced separately  
 eg. *Filii* (of the Son) pronounced FEE-LEE-EE

**ae** – pronounced 'ay' as in 'today' e.g. *caelum* (heaven)

Also note :

*introibo* (I will go in) pronounced INTRO-EE-BO