

THE COMMON TONES OF THE MASS.

Tones for the Prayers.

I. Festal Tone.

This tone is used for Sundays and Feasts.

D Ominus vobíscum. R. Et cum spí-ri-tu tú-o.

O -rémus. Préces nóstras, quaésumus Dómine, cleménter ex-
Metrum. Flex.

áudi : atque a peccató-rum víncu-lis abso-lútos, ab ómni nos ad-

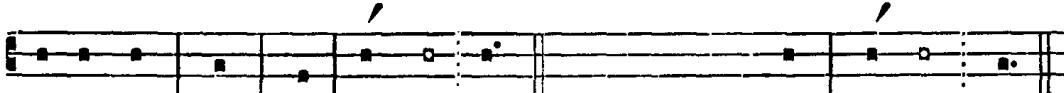
versi-tá-te custódi. Per [e-úmdem] Dóminum nóstrum Jésum Chrístum
Flex.

Fí-li- um tú-um : qui técum vívit et régnat in uni-táte [e-júsdem] Spi-
Metrum.

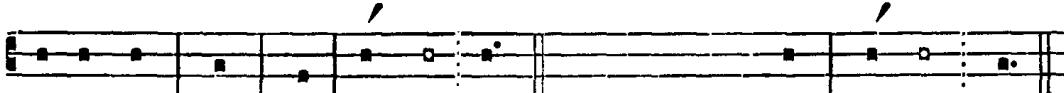
ri-tus Sáncti Dé-us : per ómni- a saécu-la saecu-lórum. R. Amen.

Another conclusion : Qui ví-vis et régnas cum Dé-o Pátre [or Qui técum
Metrum.

ví-vit et régnat] in uni-tá-te Spí-ri-tus Sáncti Dé-us, etc.

*Examples of the Metrum.*¹

pi- e- tâ- te pro- sé-que- re.
mo-ri- én- do con- fés-si sunt. (A).
or : con- fés- si sunt. (B).

Examples of the Flex.

per- cé- pi- mus.
quae ré- cta sunt.

In the body of the Prayer, the metrum comes first, then the flex. In the conclusion, the opposite takes place. As a general rule, the metrum in the Prayer occurs at the colon; the flex at the semi-colon, or, if there is no semi-colon, at the first comma which follows the metrum when the sense allows this being done.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the words Jésum Christum Filium túum. by which a prayer sometimes ends, (e. g. on the Feast and on the Octave of St. Stephen) form part of the body of the Prayer itself. The conclusion therefore begins at the words Qui técum.

2. Ferial Tone.

A) On Ferias, at Votive Masses which are not solemn, and at Masses for the Dead, the Prayers are sung in the ferial tone, that is recto tono from beginning to end, with only a slight pause in those places where the metrum and the flex would have been used in the festal tone, and again at the ending.

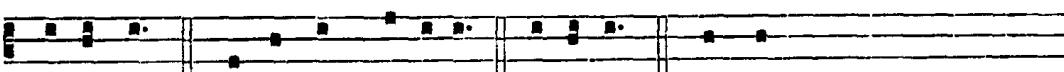
B) However, there is another ferial tone which is used for the Prayers of the Litanies and of the Aspersion, and of other ceremonies of the same kind, such as the Washing of the feet, the Blessing of candles, of ashes, and of palms.

This second ferial tone is the same as the first ferial tone, except that, at the end of the Prayer and at the end of the conclusion, the voice is lowered a third — a minor third — for the flex.

The Prayers which precede the Mass of the Paschal Vigil, and the Prayers of the Blessing of the Fonts are sung in the first ferial tone.

The Prayers which are preceded by Flectámus génu-a. are also sung in the first ferial tone.

The Priest : The Deacon : The Sub-Deacon :



Orémus. Flectámus génu-a. Levá-te. Praést...

The second ferial tone may be used for the Prayer Super pôpulum. which is said in Lent after the admonition :



Humi-li- á-te cápi-ta véstra Dé-o.

¹ In accordance with the decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, dated July 8th 1912, if a monosyllable or a Hebrew word occur in the Lessons or Versicles, or at the mediant of the psalms, it is permissible to modify the ending (B) or to keep the ordinary modulation (A).

Ancient Tones ad libitum.

a) Solemn Tone.

All the Prayers of the Mass (except the Prayer Super populum) may be sung in this tone without distinction as to festal or ferial rite.

D Ominus vobiscum. [Pax vobis.] R. Et cum spiritu tuo.
Flex.

O -remus. Majestatem tuam Domine suppli-cri-ter exoramus :
Full stop.

ut sicut Ecclésiae tuae beatus Andréas Apóstolus exstinctus prae-
Flex.

dicátor et réctor; ita apud te sit pro nobis perpétuus intercessor.
Metrum.

Per Dominum nostrum Jésus Christum Filium tuum : qui tecum
Metrum.

vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti Deus, per omnia saé-
cu-la saeculorum. R. Amen. Another conclusion: Qui vivit et regnas

cum Deo Pátre [or Qui tecum vivit et regnat] in unitate Spiritus
Santí Dei, etc.

Examples of the Flex.

pré-ci-bus nostri ac-commo-da.
 af-flí-gi-mur.
 con-fés-si sunt. (A).
 or : con-fés-si sunt. (B).

Examples of the full stop.

ve-tústa sér- vi- tus té- net.
pérfru- i lae- tí- ti- a.
di- gná-tus es. (A).
or : di- gná- tus es. (B).

Prayer of St. Stephen.

Full stop. Conclusion.

Jésum Chrístum Fí-li-um tú-um. Qui técum ví-vit et régnat...

In this tone, the Prayer has only the flex, which occurs at the end of the first sub-division.

After the flex, as after any pause, the first syllable of the following word starts a tone lower than the dominant.

If the Prayer is longer than usual (as, for instance, the Prayers A cúnctis, and Omnipotens sempiterne Déus) the formula of the full stop may be repeated on condition that it be preceded each time by a flex.

When the Prayer is preceded by Flectámus génu-a :

Orémus. Flectámus génu-a. Levá-te. Pópu-lum tú-um...

(When the ¶. Dóminus vobíscum. has to be replaced by the ¶. Dómine exáudi. the following is used :

¶. Dómine exáudi ora-ti-ónem mé- am. R¶. Et clámor mé-us ad te
véní- at.)

b) Simple Tone.

This tone is used for the Prayers of the Aspersion, of the Blessings, of the Litanies, and for other Prayers of the same kind, except those which are preceded by Flectámus génu-a.

If this simple tone be adopted, it is used also for the Prayer Super pópulum, after the admonition Humiliáte cápita véstra. (as on p. 99).

D Ominus vobíscum. R¶. Et cum spí-ri-tu tú- o. Orémus.
Flex.

Praéstá, quaésumus omnípotens Dé-us : † ut semper ra-ti-onabí-li- a

Metrum.

Full stop.

medi-tán tes, * quae tí-bi sunt pláci-ta, et díctis exsequámur et fáctis.

Conclusion.

Flex.

or : et fáctis. Per Dóminum nóstrum Jésum Chrístum Fí-li- um tú-um: †

Metrum.

qui témum ví-vit et régnat in uni-tá-te Spí-ri-tus Sáncti Dé-us, * per
Another conclusion.

ómni- a saécu-la saecu-lórum. R. Amen. Qui ví-vis et régnas cum

Dé-o Pátre [or : Qui témum ví-vit et régnat] in uni-tá-te Spí-ri-tus Sáncti
Short conclusion.

Dé-us, * per ómni- a... Per Chrístum Dóminum nóstrum. R. Amen.

Examples of the Flex.

concéde	lae- tí- ti-	am.	subsí-	di-	a	cón- fe-	rat.
	con-fés-si	sunt.		praé- sta	quaésu-		
	di- gnátus	es. (A).	ad	pro- te-	gén-dum	nos. (A).	
or :	di- gnátus	es. (B).	or : proté-	gén-	dum	nos. (B).	

Examples of the Metrum.

When the Prayer ends with a monosyllable

redíme-re dignátus es. or : dignátus es. or : dignátus es.

As a general rule, the flex is made at the first sub-division; it is, however, omitted if the Prayer is very short. The metrum, on the other hand, is never omitted.