



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

DECREE

On the Conclusion of the Collects of the Roman Missal

In the letter of 13 May 2020 (Prot. N. 228/20) to the Presidents of member Episcopal Conferences of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL), the Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments addressed a concern about the Trinitarian conclusion of the Collect prayers of the Roman Missal in English.

These prayers can be concluded in one of three manners as laid out in n. 54 of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. Until now, in each of these formulae the Latin words "Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum" are rendered in English as "one God, for ever and ever."

The addition of "one" before "God" in the conclusion of the Collects could be construed as mistaken and problematic. "Deus" here refers to the earlier mention of "the Son" and is a Christological, anti-Arian affirmation, and not directly Trinitarian in this context.

In a letter of 27 May 2020 to the Presidents of the English-speaking Bishops' Conferences, the Chairman of ICEL made clear that it is the Conference itself which determines how and when the proposed change is made.

In the light of the above guidance, the bishops of England and Wales have voted that these formulae should be adjusted accordingly with the removal of the word "one" from the conclusion of the Collect.

Therefore, we decree that n. 54 of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, and each occasion in the Roman Missal where these formulae are used, are to be adjusted accordingly, and we further decree that this change to the Collect prayer will come into effect in the Dioceses of England and Wales from 29 November 2020, the First Sunday of Advent. This request of the Conference has been confirmed, by letter, from the Archbishop-Secretary of the Congregation dated 27 October 2020.

The explanatory notes which accompany this Decree provide further details of the rationale for this change and its practical implementation.

Given at Westminster on 9 November 2020, the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica.



+ Vincent Card. Nichols

Vincent Cardinal Nichols
President

Christopher Thomas

Rev. Canon Christopher Thomas
General Secretary