

LATIN FOR CLERGY!
On-Line courses from Matthew Spencer,
in association with the Latin Mass Society



To respond to Pope Francis' challenge that those celebrating the ancient Latin liturgy should 'possess a knowledge of the Latin language sufficient for a thorough comprehension of the rubrics and liturgical texts' (*Traditionis Custodes* 3.4),

the Latin Mass Society is pleased to announce a special course designed to assist the clergy to improve their Latin, *with independent certification*,

with an 80% discount to the usual price for Catholic priests, seminarians, those accepted for seminary admission, permanent deacons, those studying for the permanent diaconate, and novices and professed religious of both sexes who come from or are based in England and Wales.

THE COURSE

Beginning-through-to-mid-level to meet expressly the needs of the liturgical use of Latin:

3 x 4 week encounter with Latin (12 weeks total) to work through:

First Module of 4 weeks: the Canticum I always start with on day 1 now ('Bless the Lord') and on through prayers (e.g. 'O Sanctissima) to develop confidence so that we move via some psalms on to, by the end of the first 4 weeks, an initial look at the Roman Canon.

Second Module of 4 weeks: Roman Canon continues and we start to alternate patristic texts with rubrics

Third Module of 4 weeks: Rest of Mass texts, more rubrics, additional texts from the Latin Fathers.

DATES

6 Sep - 1st Oct – Module 1

11 Oct - 5 Nov – Module 2

15 Nov - 10 Dec – Module 3

CERTIFICATION

At the end of the course, Dr Justin Stover, Senior Lecturer in Medieval Latin at the University of Edinburgh, has offered to assess student's skills and attest to the Latin competence of those who have reached the appropriate level.

This assessment is also available to any clergy with more advanced Latin who may feel they do not need this particular course.

COST AND DISCOUNT

Each Module costs £200, coming to a total cost, if doing all three, of £600.

The discounted rate is £40 per module, or £120 in total.

Clergy and religious from outside England and Wales are encouraged to apply to their local Una Voce groups for financial assistance if needed.

The discount is applicable to: **Roman Catholics who fall into any of the following categories: priests, seminarians, those accepted for seminary admission, permanent deacons, those studying for the permanent diaconate, novices and professed religious of both sexes; on condition that they either come from or are based in England and Wales.**

Clergy from outside England and Wales, and non-clergy of all faiths and none and from anywhere in the world are welcome to take part in the course.

THE TUTOR

The principal instructor is Matthew Spencer MA (Oxford), a practising Catholic who attends both forms of the Mass and who has a special interest in the monastic tradition. He authored *Athos: Travels on the Holy Mountain* (SPCK, 2000) and is currently researching a second book on contemplative ethics. He lives in the Scottish highlands and his house was in fact built expressly for the teaching of Latin, to serve the needs of the mediaeval cathedral still standing nearby. It has seen six centuries of almost continuous educational use, a use which is now continuing in response to the current needs of the Church.

TESTIMONIALS

"It was a totally different approach to learning a language. Instead of throwing rules and tables at the student, the teacher plunged us into the text so we could acquire a feel for the language and the context of the words. This is a more natural and organic way to learn a new language."

“Matthew’s Latin expertise and his fascinating choice of texts. The teaching style was also very relaxed and supportive”

“The possibility to approach the language no matter the background of the learner”

FURTHER COURSES

Those who complete the Clergy course may wish to consider Matthew Spencer’s other courses, perhaps joining at the Mid-level or Advances Modules.

Lay Stream Courses

Module 1: 4-week Beginners Course

Module 2: Mid level, 4-week Psalms (this course in particular was very popular and a good way of developing intermediate confidence with familiar texts from people's devotional and contemplative life)

Module 3: (More) Advanced level: 4-week encounters with specific authors or texts (presented so far: Augustine & Boethius, Lawrence of Brindisi, Classical Latin; expected to run in the second year: Romuald).

THE LATIN MASS SOCIETY

The Society has been working closely with Matthew to develop, evaluate, and promote online Latin (and also New Testament Greek) courses since the beginning of the Coronavirus epidemic has made residential courses impractical.

As well as the promotion of the ancient Latin liturgical tradition, the Society has as a charitable object the promotion of Latin ‘in the Church’s worship, teaching, and administration’, and ‘education and training to accomplish’ this and its other goals.

TO APPLY

Please email Matthew Spencer: intensivepali@gmail.com