How to sing the Second Reading at Mass in English & Latin

C. Epistle Tones

1. Recent Tone. The more commonly heard epistle tone is a recto tono formula. Its only inflection is the interrogation, identical to the interrogation of the prophecy tone. Pauses and full stops are made by a simple mora vocis. Some books indicate mora vocis for each of the last two syllables at the conclusion; but we prefer to lengthen only the last syllable. Should the epistle conclude with a question the interrogation formula cannot be used, and the usual recto tono prevails. Care must be taken not to fall into a speech rhythm, the normal rules for locating the ictus in syllabic chant being applicable even in recto tono passages.

2. Ancient ad Libitum Tone. There is also an ancient tone for the epistle lesson, available ad libitum. It is often erroneously termed a solemn tone, and is heard not infrequently on greater feasts. It is not a solemn tone, and may be used freely at any time. It is ancient, and often seems more suitable for the ember days. The tone has a metrum, a full stop, and a distinct formula for the conclusion. The metrum consists of two feet with one preparatory syllable; the full stop of two feet; and neither admits any special treatment for monosyllables, Hebrew words, anapaests and false dactyls. The conclusion involves two feet, but with a separation between for the final phrase, which has its tenor on Ti instead of Do. The conclusion does admit special treatment for monosyllables and the other usual situations of final accent. The interrogation formula, which may not be used as a conclusion, is the same as that in the prophecy tone.

The pattern of the ancient epistle tone is as follows:

In the titles, the metrum occurs only with the Pauline Epistles and with the Apocalypse, as indicated above.

Lé-cti-o Ac-tu-um A-| pó-stŏ-| ló-rŭm. In di-| é-bŭs | íl-lĭs: Petrus....

Titles other than the Pauline Epistles and the Apocalypse have only the full stop, as indicated in the above example for the Acts of the Apostles. The phrase *in diebus illis,* standing at the beginning of a passage, always takes the metrum, as indicated above.

Lé - cti - o E - pí - sto-lae be - á - ti | Paú - lĭ Ă - | pó - stŏ - lĭ |

ád Cŏ-| rín-thĭ - ŏs. Fra-tres: Ex-pur-gá-te ve-tus fer-mén-tum,

ut si-tis | nó-vă cŏn-|spér-sĭ - o, si-cut | é-stĭs | á - zy̆- mĭ.

É - te-nim Pa-scha no-strum im-mo-| lá-tŭs eŝt |Chrí-stŭs.

Í - ta-que e-pu-lé-mur: non in fer-|mén-tŏ |vé-tĕ-rĭ,

ne-que in fer-mén-to ma-lí - ti - ae, et ne-|quí-tĭ-ắe: ‖

sed in á - zy-mis sin-ce-ri-tá-tis, et ve-ri-|tá-tĭs.

In employing this formula in English, it will be found that, just as in Latin, the metrum will have a place in the titles of the Pauline Epistles and in the Apocalypse, whereas the title of the Acts of the Apostles and of other readings will have only the full stop. The phrase *in those days*, translating *in diebus illis*, is not long enough for the normal metrum formula; but by analogy with what is done for the full stop in the shorter titles in the Latin usage of this tone, we will make certain of the metrum notes into a neum in order to retain the complete melodic formula.

In English usage, the formula will be as follows:

Metrum
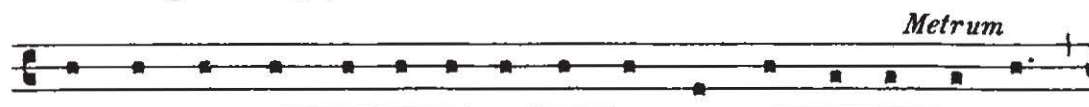
A Read-ing from the E - pis-tle of bless-ed |Paúl thĕ Ă-| pós-tle

Full Stop

|tó the |Róm-ăns. |tó thĕ Cŏ-|rín-thĭ-ăns. |tó thĕ Gă-| lá-tĭans.
|tó thĕ Phĭ-|líp-pĭ-ans. |tó thĕ Ĕ-|phé-sĭans.

to the |Thés-să-|ló-nĭ-ăns. |to |Tím-ŏ-thy. |to |Tí-tŭs.
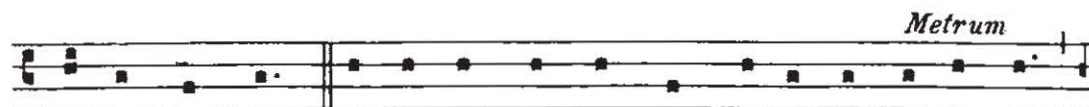
Metrum

|tó thĕ |Hé-brĕws.   A Reading from the Book |óf thĕ Ă-| pó-că-lypse

Full Stop

of bless-ed |Jóhn thĕ Ă-|pós-tle.

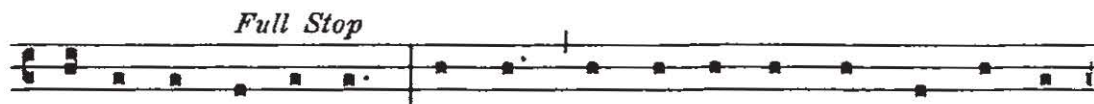*Full Stop*   *Metrum*

A Reading from the Acts |óf thĕ Ă-|pós-tles.   In |thóse dáys: Pe-ter...

The full pattern of the tone will be as follows:

Metrum

A Read-ing from the E - pis-tle of bless-ed |Pául thĕ Ă- |pós-tle

Full Stop

|tó thĕ Cŏ- |rín-thĭ-aňs. Breth-ren: Clean out the old yeast, that |yóu mắy

Metrum   *Full Stop*

bĕ |frésh doúgh, as you real-ly |aŕe uň- |leáv-eňed. For in-deed, our

Full Stop
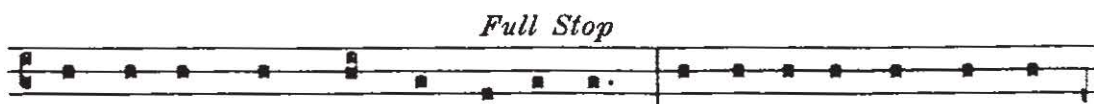
pass-ov-er, Christ, |hás beĕn |sác-rĭ-fiĉed. Let us ce-le-brate the feast,

Metrum

then, |nót wĭth thĕ |old yeást, the yeast of ma-lice and |wíck-ĕd-nĕss, ||

Conclusion

but with the un-leav-ened bread of sin-ce-ri - |tý aňd trúth.

or: |sin-ce - ri - ty and truth.

Examples of the metrum: formula of two feet with one preparatory syllable, no disparate treatment available for the final accent situations:

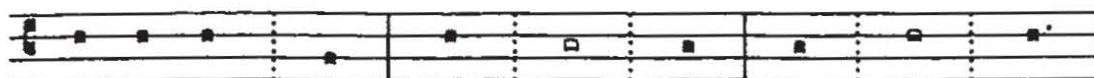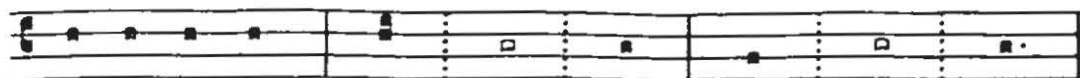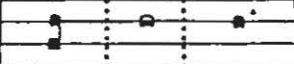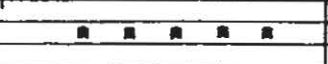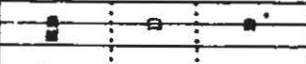|							
pro - pi - or	est	nó	-	stra	sá	-	lŭs
con -	fi -	té -	bĭ -	tŭr	Dó -	mĭ -	nŏ
per -	se -	quén	-	tĭ -	bŭs		vŏs
an -	gu -	stí	-	ă -	vé	-	rŭnt
Ma -	di -	án		ĕt	É	-	phă
Do - mi -	nus	Dé -	ŭs	lŏ -	cú -	tŭs	ĕst
vi - si - ble	and	thíngs		ĭn -	ví -	sĭ -	blĕ
through	all	gé	-	nĕ -	rá	-	tiŏns
re - ceiv - ed	our	Lórd		sŏ	wálk	ĭn	hĭm
po - si - tion	of	hón -	ŏr	ă -	móng		yŏu
hope	in	oŭr			Lórd	Jé -	sŭs	Chřist

Examples of the full stop: formula of two feet, with no disparate treatment available for the rhythmic situations capable of final accent:

ap -	pró	-	pĭn -	qúa		-	bĭt.
di - li -	gén	-	tĭ -	bŭs			sě.
re - sur -	ré -	xĭt	ă	mór -	tŭ -		ĭs.
	sú -	pĕr	tĕ	ór -	tă		ĕst.
in	oŭr		Lórd	Jé -	sŭs		Chřist.
	fróm		the	wráth	tŏ		cóme.
his	kíng -	dŏm	aňd	gló	-		řy.

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Examples of the conclusion: a formula of one foot preceding the final phrase and one foot ending the final phrase, and with disparate treatment available for monosyllables, Hebrew words, anapaests and false dactyls:

reprobare	má	-	lŭm
sed indu-	í -	mǐ-	nǐ
di-	é	-	bŭs
idem	í -	pše	ěs
or: idem ipse	és		
in Christo	Ié	-	šu
or: in Christo Ie-	sú		
abundetis	iň		spě
or: abundetis in	spé		
God our	Fá	-	thěr,
through	Jé -	sŭs	Chřist,
or: through Jesus	Chřist,		
to his own	ín -	těr-	ešts,

et eligere	bó	-	nŭm.
Dominum Jesum	Chrí	-	stŭm.
...consummationem	saé -	cŭ -	lǐ.
...non de-	fí -	cǐ -	eňt.
...non de-	fí -	cǐ -	eňt.
...Domino	nó	-	střo.
...Domino	nó	-	střo.
Spiritus	Sán	-	ctǐ.
Spiritus	Sán	-	ctǐ.
quia	nǒn		sǔnt.
or: quia non	súnt.		
sors il-	ló -	rŭm	ešt.
or: sors illorum	ešt.		
petenti-	bŭs		sě.
or: petentibus	sé.		
Mel-	chí -	sě -	děch.
or: Melchise-	déch.		
and from the Lord	Jé -	sŭs	Chřist.
or: ...Lord Jesus	Chřist.		
to the glory and	praíse	ǒf	Gód.
...glory and praise of	Gód.		
but to those of	oth	-	eřs.

Tone for the Epistle.

The Epistle is said recto tono. *in an even, well-sustained voice without modulation, but the interrogation is made in the ordinary way, as in the tone for the Prophecy.*

The second tone, as indicated below, may be used ad libitum. It was formerly in common use.

Title.   Metrum.

Ecti-o Epí-stolae be-á-ti Páuli Apósto-li   ad Romá-nos.

Metrum.

ad Co-rínthi-os.   ad Gá-latas.   ad Tí- tum. Lécti- o líbri Apocalý-

psis   be-á-ti Jo-ánnis Apósto-li.

In the Titles, the metrum is used only for the Epistles of St. Paul and for the Apocalypse as marked above.

Ecti- o Actu-um Apostoló-rum. In di- é-bus íllis : Pétrus...

The words In diébus íllis. *at the beginning of the text, are always sung as above.*

Lécti- o I-sa-í-ae Prophé-tae. Súrge, illumináre Jerúsa-lem : qui-a

Metrum.   Full stop.

vénit lúmen tú-um : et gló-ri- a Dómi-ni super te órta est. Qui-a ecce

ténebrae opériunt térram, et ca-lígo pópulos : super te autem ori-étur

Dóminus, et gló-ri-a é-jus in te vidébi-tur. Et ambulábunt géntes in

lúmine tú-o, et réges in splendóre órtus tú- i. Léva in circúitu

óculos tú-os, et víde : ómnes ísti congregá-ti sunt, venérunt tí-bi :

fílii túi de longe véni- ent, et fí-li-ae túae de látere súrgent. Etc.

Conclusion : áurum et thus deferéntes, et láudem Dómino annuntiántes.

This conclusion is made with two accents, between which there should be a certain distance, the first accent being modulated before the last phrase of the sentence, or before the last words which have a complete sense in themselves.

This tone has the metrum and the full stop; the interrogation is made as for the Prophecy (p. 103). No inflexion is made at words introducing a quotation. In long sentences, the metrum may be repeated once or several times, if the meaning allow this, for the metrum may only occur where there is a certain completion in the sense. On the other hand, if the text is very short, or if the sense does not allow it, the metrum is omitted altogether.
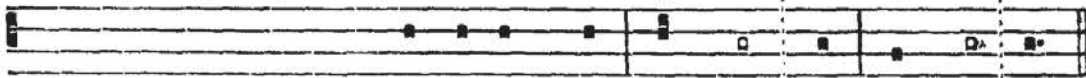
There is no special rule for monosyllables and Hebrew words.

The ending has its proper modulation even when the text ends with an interrogation.

Examples of the Metrum.

pró-	pi-	or	est	nó-		sá-	lus.
con-	fi-	té-	bi-	tur		Dó- mi-	no.
an-	gu-	sti-	a-			vé-	runt.
sci-	én-	ti-	am	san-		ctó-	rum.
per-	se-	quén-	ti-	bus			vos.
Má-	di-	an	et	E-			pha.
	de-	ín-	de	pro		pó- pu-	li.
Dó-	mi-	nus	Dé-	us	lo-	cú- tus	est.

Examples of the full stop.

indu-	á-	mur	ár-		ma	lú-	cis.
in-	ter-	fí-	ci-	et		ím- pi-	um.
ap-	pro-		pin-	quá-			bit.
gló-ri-	a		cae-		lé-		sti.
di- li-		gén-	ti-		bus		se.
re- sur-	ré-	xit a			mór-tu-	is.
su-	per te		ór-	ta			est.

Examples of the Conclusion.
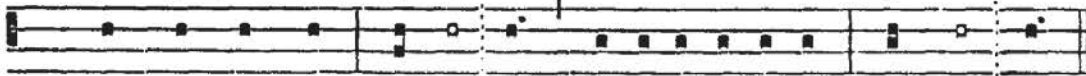
	re- pro-	bá-	re	má-		lum	et e- li-ge-re		bó-	num.
	sed in-	du-	í-	mi-	ni		Dóminum Jésum Chri-			stum.
	ó- mni-	bus	di-	é-		bus...	consummatiónem saé-	cu-	li.
A	a- bun-	dé-	tis	in		spe...	Spíritus		sán-	cti.
	í-	dem	í-	pse	es...		non de-		fí- ci-	ent.
	in	Chrí-sto	Jé-	su			Dómino		nó-	stro.
B			in	spe...............			Spíritus		sán-	cti.
		í-	pse	es.................			non de-		fí- ci-	ent.
	in	Chrísto	Jé-	su			Dómino		nó-	stro.

Monosyllabic or Hebrew ending :
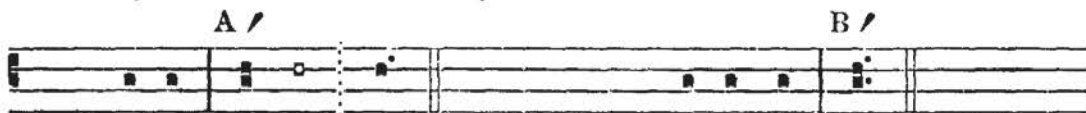
	A				*or :*	B	
qui- a	non	sunt.				qui- a non	sunt.
sors il-	ló- rum	est.				illórum	est.
peténti-	bus	se.				peténtibus	se.
Mel-	chí-se-	dech.				Melchíse-	dech.
in saécula.	A-	men.				A-	men.