

THE TABLET

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1933.

SIR,—Among the many editions of the Vatican Chant books now on the market there is one which is but little boomed, and seldom referred to in English periodicals. It nevertheless deserves quite a special attention. “Long-sufferer” will probably find in it the “*few, certain and definite* rules” he has been looking for in vain. The authority responsible for this edition is none other than Dom Lucien David, O.S.B., now Prior of St. Wandrille, in Normandy. As the right-hand man of Dom Pothier during the preparation of the Vatican Graduale, he is specially qualified to tell us what was in the editor’s mind when he selected from the various readings of the MSS. the one which became embodied in the final text. Dom Mocquereau opened flood-gates when he appealed to *earlier* or *more accurate* readings against the one selected, and tried to superimpose his variants on the official text. Dom David, in 1921, issued sections of the Vatican books—the Kyriale, the Mass of the Dead, the Psalter—and, in 1926, published his *Paroissien Dominical Complet* (on the lines of the Solesmes *Liber Usualis*). To the official musical text he added a few simple signs to indicate long notes in the middle of phrases, and especially in the cadences. Nothing mysterious or controversial about these signs! And yet their result is gratifying to the teacher and the pupil. Some may not like the five-line stave adopted throughout. Others will see in this an additional advantage. At present we are only concerned with the rhythm of the chant, and D. David has recently assured the writer of this letter that he is willing to compromise on the form of the stave. Priests and choirmasters who use the *plain* Vatican notation will find in D. David’s edition a safe guide for pencil markings, etc. Those interested may apply for copies at the Bureau Grégorien, Grenoble, France. The Kyriale costs about 6d., and the complete *Paroissien* about 4s. 6d. bound in cloth.

Yours faithfully,

D. JOHN STÉPHAN, O.S.B.

The Abbey, Buckfast, South Devon.

MANY HAVE called it “the most elegant yet accessible hand-missal ever published.” The 3rd edition of the *St. Edmund Champion Missal* includes dual ORDO MISSAE sections—one for use at the **High Mass** (with full-color images, music, and ancient manuscripts), and one for the **Low Mass** (simple and streamlined). Including a breathtaking English translation by Monsignor Ronald Knox, it is the ‘definitive guide’ to both versions of Holy Week: 1950 vs. 1962. ✕ Learn more: <https://www.ccwatershed.org/campion/>