

## 5) LATIN PRONUNCIATION

Being the handmaid of the Liturgy, the chant ought never to obscure but to bring out the sense of the words. There must be good diction. This requires attention to correct pronunciation, accentuation and phrasing of the Latin words in the text. The Latin language of the liturgy uses the five fundamental vowel sounds in their original purity.

There is no mixture or fusion of vowel sounds as in the English language.

- Pronounce :
- A as in *father*, not as in *add*.
  - E as in *mellow*, not as in *obey*
  - I as in *radio*, not as in *miss*
  - O as in *for*, not as in *note*
  - U as in *boot*, not as in *but*
  - AE and OE as simple E above.

Otherwise two consecutive vowels are pronounced separately, e. g. EI, OU, AI, EO, II.

Latin consonants which call for special attention are :

- C before e, ae, oe, i is pronounced like ch in *church*.
- C before a, o, u is pronounced like c in *cat*.
- G before a, o, u is pronounced like g in *get*.
- G before e, i is pronounced like g in *gentle*.
- H is silent as in *Thomas*, except in *mihi* and *nihil* where it has the sound of a somewhat softened K.
- J (sometimes written as I) gets the sound of the English Y but forms only one sound with the following vowel.
- Y in Latin gets the sound of I.
- CH is always pronounced K (even before e and i).
- GN gets the sound of ny as in the English *canyon*.
- PH is always pronounced F.
- TH is always pronounced T.
- SC before e and i gets the sound of SH.
- CC before e and i gets the sound of T plus CH (e. g. *ecce*).
- TI before any vowel is TSI.
- XC before e and i is pronounced like K plus SH (e. g. *excelsis*).
- Z is pronounced with the DZ sound in the English word *stands*.