

What is ICEL?

The International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) is a mixed commission of Catholic Bishops' Conferences in countries where English is used in the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy according to the Roman Rite. The purpose of the Commission is to prepare English translations of each of the Latin liturgical books and any individual liturgical texts in accord with the directives of the Holy See.

Eleven Conferences of Bishops are currently full members of ICEL. They are:

Australia
Canada
England and Wales
India
Ireland
New Zealand
Pakistan
The Philippines
Scotland
Southern African
The United States of America

Each of these Conferences elects one bishop to represent it on ICEL. The member-bishops are at present:

The Most Revd Denis Hart, Archbishop of Melbourne, Australia
The Most Revd Albert LeGatt, Archbishop of Saint-Boniface, Canada
The Most Revd Arthur Roche, Bishop of Leeds, England
The Most Revd Dominic Jala, S.D.B., Archbishop of Shillong, India
The Most Revd John McAreevey, Bishop of Dromore, Ireland
The Most Revd Denis Browne, Bishop of Hamilton, New Zealand
The Most Revd Andrew Francis, Bishop of Multan, Pakistan
The Most Revd Romulo Valles, Archbishop of Zamboanga, the Philippines
The Most Revd Joseph Toal, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, Scotland
The Most Revd Valentine Seane, Bishop of Gaborone, Southern African
The Most Revd Arthur Serratelli, Bishop of Paterson, New Jersey, U.S.A

Other Conferences of Bishops in whose countries English is used in the Liturgy may, on request, be admitted to associate participation in ICEL. At present these are:

The Antilles
Bangladesh
CEPAC (Pacific Islands)
Gambia - Liberia - Sierra Leone
Ghana
Kenya
Malaysia - Singapore
Malawi
Nigeria
Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

The Bishops of ICEL are assisted in their work by the professional staff of ICEL's Secretariat, which is located in Washington, D.C. The Secretariat coordinates the work of specialists throughout the English-speaking world in the preparation of translations.

When an ICEL translation has been completed and approved by the Bishops of the Commission, it is sent to the member- and associate member- conferences for their consideration.

ICEL itself is not a publisher of liturgical books and related materials in the usual sense. Rather, like individual authors, translators, or editors, it provides the content of such publications to publishing firms. ICEL has published, in limited editions but not commercially, its draft translations and texts for consultation purposes and its definitive translations and texts. The former are issued for the purpose of consultation, although they may be adopted for provisional use by individual Conferences of Bishops. The latter are issued for the use of the Conferences of Bishops, who are then free to give canonical approval or not, and for the use of publishers, for whom the texts serve as the basic edition or manuscript.

Bishops from English speaking countries attending the Second Vatican Council set up the Commission in Rome in 1963. On 15 September 2003, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments formally established ICEL as a mixed commission in accordance with the Holy See's Instruction *Liturgiam authenticam*.

The Roman Missal

Since the issuance of the *Missale Romanum* in 2002, ICEL has been engaged in the preparation of an English translation for its Conferences of Bishops. The process calls for each section to be sent to the Conferences for study and comment (Green Book) and after comments are incorporated into the text re-issued for Canonical vote (Gray Book). The Commission completed this process in 2008 and a list of sections is available [here](#).

The Secretariat has compiled a manuscript with all the texts and music in place as in the Latin edition. This has been termed the Gray Book of the Missal or GBOM and has been made available to Conferences to assist in planning for publication of the Missal and ancillary texts in their territories.

In April 2010 the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments announced that the *recognitio* for the 'universal edition' (the ICEL text) of the Missal had been granted. The Conferences of Bishops are responsible for incorporating their national propers, establishing an implementation date, and authorizing publishers to print the new Missal.