

# **SIMPLICISSIMUS**

## **An entirely new approach to learning the Latin of the Traditional Roman Mass**

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*Simplicissimus* (Latin for ‘very easy’) is a unique, user-friendly Latin Course based on a **Teach Yourself** method guaranteed to give maximum results with the minimum of effort. Its aim is to give priests a working knowledge of the Latin of the traditional Roman Missal so as to enable them to celebrate Holy Mass in the old rite with understanding and devotion. The Course is specially designed for the absolute beginner ; no need whatever to have had any formal classical background or previous knowledge of Latin. It can even be used by those who consider themselves without any particular aptitude at all for learning languages.

### **Main features of the Course**

- Clear presentation of material with grammatical constructions set out in a see-at-a-glance format
- ample opportunity for hands-on experience of the Missal right from the start with the main emphasis on Reading Practice throughout
- Vocabulary presented only within a specific context so as to avoid learning long word-lists in a ‘vacuum’
- Numbered paragraphs for easy reference and cross-reference
- Exercises require little effort and come in a variety of undemanding forms : multi-choice answers, mix-and-match arrangements or quiz-type questions
- Key to all exercises included and copious explanatory notes for your guidance as you progress through the Units
- Pronunciation Guide for quick and easy reference

**Obtainable from The Latin Mass Society,  
11-13 Macklin St., London WC2B 5NH, for £9.95 + £1.50 p & p**

**ABOUT THIS COURSE**

### **A streamlined approach**

Latin has a reputation for being a difficult language. And so it is. How then, one is entitled to ask, can a course claiming to be *simplicissimus* purport to teach a language that has so many intricacies and permutations and bristles with pitfalls at every turn? The aim of the Course is to present, not a comprehensive coverage of the Latin language itself, but simply a compendium of samples of the *Latin of the Roman Missal* in as simplified a form as possible. For that reason only the most common constructions of the Latin language are selected for presentation while the minute details are assimilated by osmosis, as it were, and reinforced in the memory by frequent usage. There is therefore no redundant material to absorb, no unnecessary toil or mental exertion to be expended in learning what is not strictly relevant. Each individual Unit of the Course is a self-contained package encompassing a major feature of the language. Once you have mastered it, you will have taken a significant step towards completing the whole picture.

### **Guaranteed Results**

The Course is specially designed to give you immediate access to the Roman Missal by providing hands-on experience of the Latin of the Tridentine Mass. So right from the outset you will have the opportunity both to *understand and recite* excerpts from the 1962 Missal, first in short, simple phrases and then gradually building up to longer sentences and passages from the Old and New Testaments. This target can be easily attained because the main focus of the Course is on the sections entitled Reading Practice which feature prominently in each Unit. All the sections on grammar and vocabulary as well as the accompanying exercises exist only to facilitate the Reading Practice.

### **How *Simplicissimus* works**

The experience of learning with *Simplicissimus* is akin to that of putting together a piece of self-assembly furniture from a list of instructions, or cooking a meal using pre-packed convenience food. Just as in both cases you can produce ‘results’ from the fruits of someone else’s labour, so you can apply the scheme of work laid out in this Course to gain instant practical experience of the Latin of the Roman Missal. All that is required is :

- to retain the broad outlines of language structures clearly set out at the beginning of each Unit
- read and repeat the Reading Material which illustrates each point
- follow some simple instructions to complete the relevant exercises

There are also, of course, many props to help you along : the numerous Latin words you will meet eg. *resurrectio*, *Evangelista*, which are so similar to English that they do not require a dictionary, your own knowledge of biblical context, Latin words and phrases eg. *post mortem* or *agenda* which are used in everyday speech, the Latin current in ecclesiastical circles such as *imprimatur*, *mea culpa*, *Humanae Vitae* etc. and, of course, there is the ever-present English version on the other side of the page!

### **Pray-while-you-say**

An unexpected bonus arising from the recitation of Latin phrases from the Missal is that you will find yourself *praying* frequently as you repeat over and over again the prayers which were the patrimony of every Catholic priest of the Roman rite for 16 centuries, using the self-same words as the saints and martyrs of the past. In addition there are the many pious ejaculations in honour of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the titles of honour conferred on Our Blessed Lady, or memorable sayings from the teachings of Jesus, St Paul, the Prophets, and so on. This kind of repetitive exercise has a mantra-like quality which, once you have crossed the hurdle of conscious effort, helps to lodge the truths of the Faith at a subliminal level and makes those truths one’s own, part of the subconscious mind.

It is sincerely hoped that those priests who commit themselves to this Course will, while picking up the odd bit of Latin, also take with them a love and appreciation for the rite of Mass that has been celebrated for centuries all over the world by their elder brothers in the Faith and is still most dearly valued by many of their flock.