

## UNIT 6

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### A MAJOR MOOD SWING- THE SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD

#### **6.1 What is the Subjunctive Mood?**

The Subjunctive Mood encompasses a substantial area of the Latin language and is much more pervasive than in English. It is a Verb form which expresses *hypothetical* situations such as unfulfilled wishes, prayers as yet unanswered, fears unallayed, intentions to be carried out. As the Subjunctive is associated with all that is *ethereal, mysterious and of the spirit*, it is entirely appropriate that it should be widely used in the language of the Church in her expression of our prayers. The Roman Missal is, therefore, replete with examples of this grammatical form.

#### **6.2 Principal uses of the Subjunctive**

1. To express a *command* or *strong wish* for some action to be taken. This is referred to as the Jussive Subjunctive (from *jussum*, one of the principal parts of the Verb *jubeo*, to command). It is commonly translated by 'let' or 'may', as in the well known expressions

*Oremus* - Let us pray

*Requiescat in pace* - May he/she rest in peace

*Fiat lux* - Let there be light

2. To indicate the *purpose* for which the main action is intended.

#### **6.3 Points to remember about the Subjunctive**

##### **1. It is not too difficult**

In spite of its rather off-putting name, the Subjunctive Mood is easier to learn than the Indicative Mood, as it has only four tenses, three of which are used in this Course.

##### **2. Subtle differences**

There is only a minute difference - usually a single vowel - between the form of Present Indicative and the Present Subjunctive, and yet a disproportionately large difference of intention in the mind of the writer or speaker. This shift in emphasis occurs in the twinkling of an eye, and can be easily overlooked. So extra vigilance is necessary to spot the tell-tale signs of the Present Subjunctive :

- The vowel **a** which distinguishes Verbs of the 1st Conjugation in the Indicative is simply substituted by **e** throughout the Conjugation. Thus, for example, *oramus* (we pray) becomes *oremus* (let us pray).
- Verbs of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Conjugations take on the **a** discarded by the 1st Conjugation as their distinctive characteristic in the Subjunctive Mood. See table below.

##### **3. Swapping over of vowels**

This exchange between the Indicative and Subjunctive Moods is accompanied by a shift in mood or emphasis in meaning.

##### **4. No -O's**

So far you have been used to thinking of the ending **-o** in connection with 'I', but the 1st Person Singular of the Present Subjunctive ends in **-m**, never **-o**.

#### **6.4 Translation of the Subjunctive**

There is not always a ready-made translation of the Subjunctive, as much will depend on the 'mood' in which it is embedded. You just have to *feel* your way into the Mood. Words such as *may*, *might*, *let* and *should* can be brought into play according to the particular context

#### **6.5 THE PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE ACTIVE**

##### **1st Conjugation**

##### **2nd Conjugation**

ORARE - TO PRAY

<i>orem</i> - I may pray etc	<i>oremus</i>
<i>ores</i>	<i>oretis</i>
<i>oret</i>	<i>orent</i>

VIDERE - TO SEE

<i>videam</i> - I may see etc	<i>videamus</i>
<i>videas</i>	<i>videatis</i>
<i>videat</i>	<i>videant</i>

3rd ConjugationBENEDICERE - TO BLESS

<i>benedicam</i> - I may bless etc	<i>benedicamus</i>
<i>benedicas</i>	<i>benedicatis</i>
<i>benedicat</i>	<i>benedicant</i>

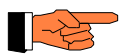
4th ConjugationVENIRE - TO COME

<i>veniam</i> - I may come etc	<i>veniamus</i>
<i>venias</i>	<i>veniat</i>
<i>veniat</i>	<i>veniant</i>

and for the Verb 'to be' :

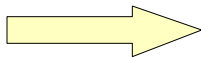
ESSE - TO BE

<i>sim</i> - I may be	<i>simus</i>
<i>sis</i>	<i>sitis</i>
<i>sit</i>	<i>sint</i>



The 1st Person Plural form of the Subjunctive (ending in *-mus*) is translated by 'let us...' or 'may we...'

**-mus**



let us / may we

Compare the following Active Verbs in the Indicative and Subjunctive Moods, noting the change-over of the characteristic vowels and accompanying change of meaning :

ConjugationIndicativeSubjunctive

1st	<i>adoramus</i> - we adore	<i>adoremus</i> - let us adore
1st	<i>cantamus</i> - we sing	<i>cantemus</i> - let us sing
1st	<i>laudamus</i> - we praise	<i>laudemus</i> - let us praise

2nd	<i>exhibemus</i> - we show/bring forth	<i>exhibeamus</i> - let us show/bring forth
2nd	<i>gaudemus</i> - we rejoice	<i>gaudeamus</i> - let us rejoice

3rd	<i>flectimus</i> - we bend	<i>flectamus</i> - let us bend
3rd	<i>capiamus</i> - we take / receive	<i>capiamus</i> - let us take / receive

4th	<i>servimus</i> - we serve	<i>serviamus</i> - let us serve
4th	<i>sentimus</i> - we feel / experience	<i>sentiamus</i> - may we feel / experience

**Exercise 1** Translate these sentences using vocabulary already learned :

1. *Adoremus in aeternum Sanctissimum Sacramentum*
2. *Cantemus Domino canticum novum*
3. *Laudemus viros gloriosos*
4. *Gaudeamus omnes in Domino*
5. *Benedicamus Domino*

### Vocabulary

<i>satisfactio, -ionis</i> - reparation	<i>officium, -i</i> - duty
<i>genu, -us</i> - knee	<i>mens, mentis</i> - mind
<i>capio, -ere</i> (3) - to take, receive	<i>sentio, -ire</i> (4) - to feel, experience
<i>exulto, -are</i> (1) - to exult	<i>jubilo, -are</i> (1) - to rejoice
<i>salutare, -is</i> - salvation	<i>praeoccupo, -are</i> (1) - to go, come before
<i>confessio, -ionis</i> - acknowledgement	

### Reading Practice

Psalm 94 :

<i>Venite, exultemus Domino, jubilemus Deo salutari nostro : praeoccupemus faciem ejus in confessione, et in psalmis jubilemus ei</i>	O come, let us exult in the Lord, let us rejoice before God our Saviour : let us come into His presence with thanksgiving, and with psalms rejoice before Him
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<i>dignae quoque satisfactionis exhibeamus officium</i>	may we also worthily fulfill our duty of reparation
<i>flectamus genua</i>	let us bend the knee
<i>pura mente capiamus</i>	may we receive with a pure mind
<i>sentiamus auxilium</i>	may we experience the help
<i>secura tibi mente serviamus</i>	may we serve Thee with a quiet mind

Study the following comparisons between the Indicative and Subjunctive forms, noting the change in the characteristic letter (emboldened) and the accompanying change in meaning:

#### Conjugation

#### Indicative

#### Subjunctive

1st	<i>separat</i> - he divides	<i>separet</i> - let him divide
1st	<i>abnegat</i> - he denies	<i>abneget</i> - let him deny
1st	<i>instaurant</i> - they renew	<i>instaurent</i> - let them renew

2nd	<i>lucet</i> - it shines	<i>luceat</i> - let it shine
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3rd	<i>tollit</i> - he carries	<i>tollat</i> - let him carry
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4th	<i>(ad)venit</i> - he comes	<i>(ad)veniat</i> - may he come
4th	<i>expediunt</i> - they set free	<i>expediant</i> - let them set free

### Vocabulary

<i>conjungo, -ere</i> (3) - to join together	<i>luceo, -ere</i> (2) - to shine
<i>spero, -are</i> (1) - to hope	<i>perduco, -ere</i> (3) - to lead
<i>nosmetipse</i> - ourselves	<i>tristor, -ari</i> (1) - to be sad
<i>aliquis</i> - anyone	<i>aequus, -a, -um</i> - right, contented
<i>psallo, psallere</i> (3) - to make melody, sing (psalms)	<i>infirmor, -ari</i> - to be weak, sick
<i>induco, -ere, -dixi, -ductum</i> (3) - to lead into, bring in	<i>seduco, -ere</i> (3) - to deceive
<i>presbyterus, -i</i> - priest	<i>diffidentia, -ae</i> - distrust, unbelief
<i>inanis, -is, -e</i> - vain, empty	<i>animus, -i</i> - the mind

**Reading Practice**

*Tristatur aliquis vestrum? Oret. Aequo animo est? Psallat. Infirmatur quis in vobis? Inducat presbyteros Ecclesiae, et orent super eum*

Is any of you sad? Let him pray. Is he cheerful in mind? Let him sing. Is any man sick among you? Let him bring in the priests of the Church, and let them pray over him

*Nemo vos seducat inanibus verbis : propter haec enim venit ira Dei in filios diffidentiae.*

Let no man deceive you with vain words : for because of these things cometh the anger of God upon the children of unbelief.

**Exercise 2** Fill in the blanks in the following sentences :

<i>luceat</i>	<i>sitis</i>	<i>custodiat</i>	<i>speret</i>	<i>sit</i>
<i>adveniat</i>	<i>exhibeamus</i>	<i>veniat</i>	<i>separet</i>	<i>perducat</i>

- in omnibus \_\_\_\_\_ nosmetipse sicut Dei ministri* in all things let us show ourselves as ministers of God
- Quod Deus ergo conjunxit, homo non \_\_\_\_\_* What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder
- Lux aeterna \_\_\_\_\_ eis, Domine* May eternal light shine upon them, O Lord
- \_\_\_\_\_ regnum tuum* (May) Thy Kingdom come
- et clamor meus ad te \_\_\_\_\_* and let my cry come unto Thee
- Pax Domini \_\_\_\_\_ semper vobiscum* May the peace of the Lord be always with you
- \_\_\_\_\_ Israel in Domino* Let Israel hope in the Lord
- Corpus Domini nostri Jesu Christi \_\_\_\_\_ animam tuam in vitam aeternam* May the Body of Our Lord Jesus Christ keep your soul unto everlasting life.
- omnipotens Deus... \_\_\_\_\_ vos ad vitam aeternam* May Almighty God lead you to eternal life
- ut \_\_\_\_\_ filii Patris vestri* that you may be the children of your Father

**6.6 The Subjunctive expresses Purpose with****and**

In English we can indicate purpose by using expressions such as 'in order that' or 'so that'. The equivalent in Latin is **ut**, with **ne** for negative expressions. Let us see how this works in practice :

**Vocabulary**

*cognosco, -ere (3) - to know*  
*umquam - at any time*  
*cado, -ere (3) - to fall*  
*obscurum, -i - darkness*

*offendo, -ere (3) - to strike against, knock*  
*absorbeo, -ere (2) - swallow up*  
*tartarus, -i - hell*  
*perhibeo, -ere (2) - to witness*

**Reading Practice**

God has chosen the foolish things of the world ut confundat sapientes (so that He may confound the wise)

Christ prayed for unity *ut cognoscant te, solum Deum verum* - 'so that they may know Thee, the only true God', and He came into the world *ut testimonium perhibeam veritati* - 'so that I may bear witness to the truth'.

Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but upon a candlestick, *ut luceat omnibus qui in domo sunt* - so that it may shine on all who are in the house

God hath given His Angels charge over thee *ut custodiant te in omnibus viis tuis...* - to keep thee in all thy ways...*ne umquam offendas ad lapidem pedem tuum* - lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

the Church prays for the souls of the faithful *ne absorbeat eas tartarus, ne cadant in obscurum* - that hell swallow them not up, that they fall not into darkness

### Vocabulary

<i>si</i> - if	<i>quis</i> - anyone
<i>vult</i> - wishes	<i>abnego, -are</i> (1) - to deny
<i>semetipsum</i> - oneself	<i>tollo, tollere</i> (3) - to carry, bear
<i>cogitatio, -ionis</i> - thought	<i>cor, cordis</i> - heart
<i>generatio, -ionis</i> - generation	<i>eruo, eruere</i> (3) - to deliver
<i>alo, -ere</i> (3) - to nourish	<i>mors, mortis</i> - death
<i>attendite</i> - take care	<i>justitia, -ae</i> - justice, good deed
<i>triticum, -i</i> - wheat	<i>mensura, -ae</i> - measure
<i>ejus</i> - his	<i>eorum</i> - their

**Exercise 3** Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the Subjunctive :

<i>faciatis</i>	<i>alat</i>	<i>abneget</i>	<i>tollat</i>	<i>eruat</i>	<i>det</i>
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- Si quis vult post me venire, \_\_\_\_\_ semetipsum, et \_\_\_\_\_ crucem suam*  
If anyone wants to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross
- Cogitationes Cordis ejus in generatione et generationem ut \_\_\_\_\_ a morte animas eorum et \_\_\_\_\_ eas in fame*  
The thoughts of His heart are to all generations :to deliver their souls from death and feed them in famine
- Attendite ne justitiam vestram \_\_\_\_\_ coram hominibus*  
Take heed that you do not your good deeds before men
- Fidelis servus et prudens, quem constituit dominus super familiam suam : ut \_\_\_\_\_ illis in tempore tritici mensuram*  
This is the faithful and wise steward whom his lord setteth over his family : to give them their measure of wheat in due season