

short guide to how to use the people's anglican missal

First, place your markers. There are six markers that never have to be moved, so many people don't use ribbons for them but instead use holy cards for those places.

The pages for the six markers that don't move are:

- v ← Preparation for Mass
- xv ← Thanksgiving after Mass
- B26 ← The beginning of the Mass
- B34 ← The Nicene Creed
- B53 ← The beginning of the Canon
- B61 ← After receiving Communion

Before we look at the markers that *do* move, let's think for a minute about how the Mass itself is organized.

There are two parts to the Mass: the *Ordinary and Canon* of the Mass, and the *Propers* of the Mass. The Ordinary and Canon are the parts that never change—the parts that are the same from week to week. The Propers are those parts that *do* change—the parts that are different from season to season, week to week, or day to day.

Now look at the Missal. It has pages numbered by a section letter, followed by the number. **Section B** is the Ordinary and Canon, the part that doesn't change. Since that is the part that doesn't change, that's why your markers don't have to be moved.

Section A and Section C are the proper of the season, that is, the part that changes from season to season and week to week. The Sundays of the year will be found in these two sections: A before Easter and C during and after Easter.

Section D is for the moveable holy days, the days that are on different secular dates each year. This includes holy days like the Feast of Christ the King (last Sunday in October or last Sunday of the year), Thanksgiving Day, etc. This is a very short section.

Sections E and S are the proper of the saints. Very few saint's days can take precedence over a Sunday, so if you don't assist at Mass on weekdays, you may not use these sections often. Section S contains the proper for days that are not as widely observed as the days in section E.

Section F is the common of saints, that is, the prayers for classes of saints, such

as martyrs, bishops, etc., for saints who don't have propers of their own. You'll only use this section if you're referred to it by directions in sections E or S.

Section G is the proper of votive Masses, that is, Masses that are said for special intentions, like weddings, ordinations, the opening of courts, and out of special devotion, like to Christ the High Priest, the Holy Spirit, etc. Like sections E, S, and F, if you don't assist at Mass on weekdays, you'll probably use this section seldom.

Finally, **section H** is for the departed. Propers for requiems are found here.

Now, where to put the markers that *do* move. You will want to have a ribbon marking the current month in the kalendar, between pages 1 and 12. A second ribbon should be used to mark the week in the proper of seasons (sections A and C), so you'll have to know what week it is (e.g., Second Sunday of Advent). A third ribbon should be used to mark the current day. Find today's date in section E. If the date appears with a holy day, put a ribbon there. If the date appears with a saint's name but no propers, find the date in section S. You'll want to skim through the propers to see if you need to put a ribbon in the common—section F. Unfortunately, references will say things like “all as in common 14 except...” but not tell you what page common 14 is on! Sad to say, you have to look. These are often referred to by the clergy as “Fr. Gavin's gotchas,” after the name of the editor. If the priest is going to celebrate a Votive or Requiem Mass he'll usually announce that, and you'll be able to find the page then. You may want to have a ribbon at the proper preface, between B44 and B48. The proper of the day should specify what the preface will be, and if it doesn't, the priest may use the preface of the season, or another of his choosing, or one from a separate authorized source, or maybe just the alternate preface from the feast of the Holy Trinity (B46). Finally, if the celebrant uses the traditional three collects, secrets, and post-communions, you may want to mark those, as they change seasonally. Those are at A1 for Advent, A33 for Christmas through the Purification, A52 for Feb. 3rd until Ash Wednesday, A60 for Lent, A148 for Holy Week, C15 for Easter, and C51 for Trinitytide. One ribbon should be placed at the appropriate page for the season and moved as needed.

Thus the pages for the six ribbons that do move are:

- 1-12 ← current month in the kalendar
- A/C ← current week in the proper of the season
- E/S ← current day in the proper or supplement of saints
- F/G/H ← in the common, votives, or departed, as may need be
- B44-B48 ← proper preface
- A1, A33, A52, A60, A148, C15, or C51 ← seasonal 2nd & 3rd prayers