THIRD SCRUTINY

Fifth Sunday of Lent

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

171 The texts and the readings for Mass are always those given for the third scrutiny in the Missal and the Lectionary for Mass among the ritual Masses, “Christian Initiation: For the Celebration of the Scrutinies.”

**HOMILY**

172 After the readings and guided by them, the celebrant explains in the homily the meaning

of the third scrutiny in the light of the Lenten liturgy and of the spiritual journey of the elect.

**INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER FOR ELECT**

173 After the homily, the elect with their godparents come forward and stand before the

celebrant.

**Celebrant: I now invite the Elect with their Godparents to come forward.**

The celebrant first addresses the assembly of the faithful, inviting them to pray in silence and to ask that the elect will be given a spirit of repentance, a sense of sin, and the true freedom of the children of God.

Celebrant addresses assembly:

**Today the Church calls the Elect to conversion.**

**To deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ**

**and to carry out the decision to love**

**God above all.**

**Let us all pray at this time in silence for them**

**to be given a spirit of repentance,**

**a sense of sin and strength of will**

**to live in true freedom as children of God.**

The celebrant then addresses the elect, inviting them also to pray in silence and suggesting

that as a sign of their inner spirit of repentance they bow their heads or kneel.

Celebrant addresses the Elect:

**My dear Elect, I invite you to join your prayers to this community of faith,**

**and to bow your heads [kneel down] as we intercede to God on your behalf.**

The elect bow their heads or kneel, and all **pray for some time in silence.**

After the period of silent prayer, the celebrant invites the people to join in the intercessions.

During the intercessions godparents should stand behind the Elect and place their right hand

on the right shoulder of the Elect during the intercessions.

**INTERCESSIONS FOR THE ELECT**

N.B. there are two series of the intercessions, ‘A’ and ‘B’. For more, or alternate intercessions see RCIA 174-ff.

174 During the intercessions godparents should stand behind the Elect and place their right

hand on the right shoulder of the Elect during the intercessions.

Celebrant: **Let us pray for these elect whom**

**God has chosen.**

**May the grace of the sacraments**

**conform them to Christ**

**in his passion and resurrection and enable them to triumph over the bitter fate of death.**

Deacon, Lector, or another minister:

That faith may strengthen them against worldly deceits of every kind, let us pray to the Lord:

R./ Lord, hear our prayer.

That they may always thank God, who has chosen to rescue them from their ignorance of eternal life and to set them on the way of salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

R./ Lord, hear our prayer.

That the example and prayers of catechumens who have shed their blood for Christ may encourage these elect in their hope of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord:

R./ Lord, hear our prayer.

That they may all have a horror of sin, which distorts life, let us pray to the Lord:

R./ Lord, hear our prayer.

That those who are saddened by the death of family or friends may find comfort in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

R./ Lord, hear our prayer.

That we, too, at Easter may again be confirmed in our hope of rising to life with Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

R./ Lord, hear our prayer.

That the whole world, which God has created in love, may flower in faith and charity and so receive new life, let us pray to the Lord:

R./ Lord, hear our prayer.

**EXORCISM**

N.B. there are two sets of the prayer of exorcism, ‘A’ and ‘B’. Form ‘A’ appears below. For

form ‘B’, see RCIA 174-ff.

After the intercessions, the rite continues with the exorcism. The godparents lift their right hand from the shoulder of the Elect.

The Celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined, says:

Celebrant: **Father of life**

**and God not of the dead**

**but of the living,**

**you sent your Son to proclaim life,**

**to snatch us from the realm of death,**

**and to lead us to the resurrection.**

**Free these elect**

**from the death-dealing power of**

**the spirit of evil,**

**so that they may bear witness**

**to their new life in the risen Christ,**

**for he lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

R./ Amen.

Here the celebrant lays hands on the head of each of the candidates in silence.

Then, with hands outstretched over all of them, he continues:

**Celebrant: Lord Jesus,**

**by raising Lazarus from the dead**

**you showed that you came that we**

**might have life**

**and have it more abundantly.**

**Free from the grasp of death**

**those who await your life-giving sacraments**

**and deliver them from the spirit of corruption.**

**Through your Spirit, who gives life,**

**fill them with faith, hope, and charity,**

**that they may live with you always in the glory of your resurrection,**

**for you are Lord for ever and ever.**

R./ Amen.

At this point, the Godparents assist the Elect in standing and briefly composing themselves.

**DISMISSAL OF THE ELECT**

N.B. there are 3 forms of the dismissal, ‘A’ and ‘B’ and ‘C’. Form ‘C’ is used if the elect

are not dismissed. For alternate forms, see RCIA 176-ff.

**Form ‘B’**

Celebrant: **My dear friends, this community**

**now sends you forth**

**to reflect more deeply upon the word of God**

**which you have shared with us today.**

**Be assured of our loving support**

**and prayers for you.**

**We look forward to the day when you will share fully in the Lord’s Table.**

**Form ‘C’**

Celebrant: **Although you cannot yet participate fully in the Lord’s eucharist, stay with us as a sign of our hope that all God’s children will eat and drink with the Lord and work with his Spirit to re-create the face of the earth.**

177 When the eucharist is to follow, intercessory prayer is resumed with the usual general intercessions for the needs of the Church and the whole world; then, if required, the profession of faith is said. But for pastoral reasons these general intercessions and the profession of faith may be omitted. The liturgy of the eucharist then begins as usual with the preparation of the gifts. In the eucharistic prayer there is to be a rememberance of the elect and their godparents (see ritual Mass “Christian Initiation: The Scrutinies”).