



Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference

22 September 2026

Revision of the Translation of the Trinitarian Conclusion of the Collects and Presidential Prayers

On 13th of May 2020, the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments issued **Prot. N. 228/20**, concerning the English translation of no. 54 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*. The decree addressed the rendering of the Latin phrase “*Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum*”, formerly translated as “*one God, for ever and ever*.” The Dicastery clarified that the word “one” is to be omitted and requested Episcopal Conferences to consider the implementation of the corrected translation.

Doctrinal Clarification

The Holy See indicated that translating “*Deus*” as “*one God*” gives rise to a doctrinal ambiguity. In the conclusion of the Collect prayers, “*Deus*” affirms the divinity of the Son within the Trinitarian formula. The addition of the word “one” may obscure this Christological affirmation and diminish the intended theological meaning of the prayer.

Normative Revision

Accordingly, the word “**one**” is to be omitted from the Trinitarian conclusion of the Collects and Presidential Prayers in the Roman Missal in the approved forms set out below:

- 1) **When the prayer is addressed to the Father:** *Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.*
- 2) **When the prayer is addressed to the Father and the Son is mentioned at the end:** *Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.*
- 3) **When the prayer is addressed to the Son:** *Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.*

At the August 2026 Plenary Session, the Bishops of the SACBC endorsed these revisions and approved their implementation in the dioceses of the Conference.

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