

What may have changed since you left

The same yesterday, today and for ever.

In short. The Church teaches that the liturgy has an immutable part, divinely instituted, and parts that can be changed.¹ The mystery celebrated in the liturgy is one, but the forms of its celebration are diverse.²

Key points

- The same Paschal mystery is celebrated in every place, from the first community of Jerusalem onward.²
- The liturgy has an immutable part, and parts that can be changed.¹
- No sacramental rite may be modified at the will of the minister or the community.³
- The deposit of faith was entrusted by the apostles to the whole Church.⁴

Try this, this week

1. **Read Hebrews 13:1–9.** Notice the practical advice around verse 8.
2. **Look at the parish website.** Note Mass and confession times.
3. **Arrive ten minutes early.** Pick up a booklet and look over the responses.
4. **Ask someone after Mass** what has changed in the parish. Most people enjoy being asked.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

Hebrews 13:8, World English Bible

Watch out: what this does not mean

- Not everything is open to change: the liturgy has a part that is divinely instituted, of which the Church is the guardian.¹
- Even the supreme authority in the Church may not change the liturgy arbitrarily.³

Common questions

Has Church teaching changed?

Video answer: Catholic Answers, stoneandincense.com/en/questions/has-church-teaching-changed/

The apostles entrusted the sacred deposit of the faith, contained in Scripture and Tradition, to the whole Church.⁴

The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the Church alone.⁵

Remember: The forms may change; Christ does not.

Sources

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| 1. CCC 1205 | 4. CCC 84 |
| 2. CCC 1200 | 5. CCC 85 |
| 3. CCC 1125 | |

Quotation above: Hebrews 13:8, World English Bible. Catechism: official text on [vatican.va](https://www.vatican.va).

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