

# Words, words, words!

*Reflections on disputed points in the new translation of the Mass*

*A series of talks at 7pm in the Upper Room at St Wilfrid's, York  
Third Tuesday of each month from October to March*

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The new translation of the Mass has been with us three years. Most of us are used to it. Some people, however, continue to find some of its expressions awkward and troubling. Much energy has been used attacking and defending the translation as a whole as well as its more controversial points.

The aim of this series of talks is not to revive or continue this debate, nor is it principally meant to defend any particular expression used in the translation. It is to make use of one of the opportunities which the newness of the translation offers to us, and which has been recognised by opponents and defenders of the particular changes alike. We are creatures of habit, and we can so easily get into the habit of rattling off the formulas of the Mass without reflecting too deeply on their meaning. A new translation, precisely because of its unfamiliarity, is an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of the texts we use and to learn more from them about the "Mystery of Faith".

Now the dust of the change has settled, it is to be hoped that the issues involved can be discussed in a spirit of dialogue and serenity. These six talks aim to do just that. After an initial reflection about the role of language in talking about God and talking to "him", there will follow five talks, each of which chooses an expression which has seemed difficult to many people, and uses it as a springboard for reflection. Each talk will be followed by questions and discussion of the issues raised.

**21st October**

**"The Word is made flesh" The role of language in God's dealings with us. Its importance and its limitations.**

**18th November**

**"And with your spirit" What's wrong with "and also with you"?**

**16th December**

**"Consubstantial with the Father" Why can't we just use plain language?**

**20th January**

**"For us men and for our salvation, He came down from heaven." Gender in God's plan, gender in God.**

**17th February**

**"We dare to say" Why is it daring for us to call God our Father?**

**17th March**

**"For you and for Many" – the death of Christ and the universality of salvation.**