Liber Usualis

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A sample of the Kýrie Eléison (Orbis Factor) from the *Liber Usualis*.

The **Liber Usualis** is a book of commonly-used [Gregorian chants]() in the [Catholic]() tradition, compiled by the monks of the [Abbey of Solesmes]() in France.

This 1,900-page book contains most versions of the ordinary chants for the [Mass]() ([Kyrie](), [Gloria](), [Credo](), [Sanctus](), and [Agnus Dei]()), as well as the common chants for the [Divine Office]() (daily prayers of the [Church]()) and for every commonly celebrated feast of the Church Year (including more than two hundred pages for Holy Week alone). The "usual book" or "common book" also contains chants for specific rituals, such as baptisms, weddings, funerals, ordinations, and benediction. This modal, monophonic Latin music has been sung in the Catholic Church since at least the sixth century and through the present day.

An extensive introduction explains how to read and interpret the medieval musical notation (square notation of neums or [neumes]()). A complete index makes it easy to find specific pieces.

The *Liber* was first edited in 1896 by Solesmes abbot Dom André Mocquereau (1849–1930).
After the   Seco
nd Vatican Ecumenical Council
(opened by
 Pope John XXIII
in 1962) allowed in the constitution on the liturgy
 Sacrosanctum Concilium
  the vernacular (local language) to be used in Church rites, its use has   decreased, although
the same council mandated that Gregorian Chant   should retain "pride of place" in the liturgy (
 Sacrosanctum Concilium
,   116.). Gregorian chants are still sung in most monasteries and some   churches and in
performances by groups dedicated to its preservation.

[edit] External links

   -   GLOBAL CHANT DATABASE – Index of Gregorian Chant - The largest online database
of chant melodies with references to the Liber Usualis
   - Solesmes Abbey
   - Liber Usualis (modern notation) in PDF format
   - Liber Usualis (1961) in PDF format (115 MB)

source: Wikipedia

Available on line