

Latin Terms and Phrases

This page provides the meanings of common Christian phrases with Latin roots.

LATIN	ENGLISH
A Capella (<i>Italian, really</i>)	In the manner of the chapel (without accompaniment)
Ad Limina apostolorum	To threshold of apostles (Bishop's Visitation to Rome)
Agnes Dei	Lamb of God
Anaethema sit	Let him be accursed
Bonum est	It is good
Cardo	Hinge
Cardianalis (Cardinal)	Principle or essential, from "Hinge"
Caritas	Charity
Conclave	Locked with a key
Confiteor	I confess
Corpus	Body
Credo	I believe
Credo in unum Deum	I believe in one God
Deo Gratias	Thanks be to God
Domine non sum dignus	Lord I am not worthy
Dominus vobiscum	Lord be with you
Dona nobis pacem	Grant us peace
Ecce Agnus Dei	Behold the Lamb of God
Ecce Dominus	Behold the Lord
Ecce Homo	Behold the man (words of Pontius Pilate to Jews)
Ecclesia	Church
Episcopus (Bishop)	Overseer
Et cum spiritu tuo	And with thy spirit
Et factum est	It shall come to pass
Et Verbum caro Factum Est	And the word was made flesh
Ex Cathedra	From the Chair (with full authority, especially the pope)
Exeunt	They Exit
Ex nihilo	Out of nothing
Extra Ecclesiam Nulla Salus	Outside the Church there is no salvation
Felix Culpa	Happy Fault
Fiat Lux	Let there be light
Fides, Spes, Caritas	Faith, Hope, Charity

Filius	Son
Filoque	And the Son
Fratris	Brother
Habemus Papam	We Have a Pope
Haec dies	These days
Imprimatur	Let it be printed
Improperia	Reproaches (from the Lord to his ungrateful people)
In hoc signo vinces	In this sign you will conquer
In Illo tempore	In that time
In principio erat verbum	In the beginning was the word
In saecula saeculorum	Forever
Incipit	It begins (first words of a text used as a title)
Latria	Worship
Lector	Reader
Libera nos a malo	Deliver us from evil
Lingua	Tongue
Lucifer	Light bearer
Malus	Evil, and also Apple
Mater Dolorosa	Grieving Mother (Our Lady of Sorrows)
Mea Culpa	Through my fault
Memoreae	Remember
Miserere Mei	Have Mercy on Me
Miserere Nobis	Have Mercy on Us
Missa de Angelis	Mass of the Angels
Missio	Sending Forth
Neophyte	Newly planted
Noli me tangere	Do not touch me (words of Jesus to Mary Magdalene)
Oblatio	Gift or Offering
Opus Dei	Work of God
Oremus	Let us Pray
Panis Angelicum	Bread of Angles
Paraclete	Advocate
Passio	Suffering
Pastorem (Pastor)	Shepherd
Pater	Father
Pater Noster	Our Father
Pax Christi	Peace of Christ

Pax Romana	Roman Peace
Pax tecum	Peace be with you
Pieta	Lamentation (Mary mourning over the body of Jesus)
Principio, Nunc, Semper	In the beginning, now, and always
Pontifex (Pontiff)	High Priest
Quadragesim	40 days, Lent
Requiescat in pace	Rest in Peace
Rubic	Red
Sacramentum	Oath, Covenant
Sanctus	Holy
Sanctum Sanctorum	Holy of Holies
Semper Fidelis	Always Faithful
Sola Fides	Faith alone
Sola Scriptura	Scripture alone
Spes	Hope
Spiritus Sanctus	Holy Spirit
Stabat Mater	Standing Mother (Mary grieving at the foot of the cross)
Urbi et Orbi	To the city and to the world (Papal address to Romans)
Vera Cruz	True Cross
Vera Icon (Veronica)	True Image
Via Dolorosa	Way of Suffering
Vitam aeternam	Life everlasting