Ecclesiastical Latin Pronunciation Guide

vowels

vowel	sound	English example	Latin example
a	ah	father	sanctam (sahngk-tahm), ad, mater, amen
e	eh	egg, bet	ante (ahn-teh), te. ventris
i	ee	machine, feet	filii (fee-lee-ee), in, qui
y	ee	same as I	Kyrie (kee-ree-eh)
o	aw	tone	omnia (ohm-nee-ah), gloria
u	oo	ruler	unum (oo-noom), cum, summus

Note: When two vowels appear together, each is pronounced and constitutes a separate syllable: mei (meh-ee). In singing, the first vowel is usually more prominent - lauda (LAH-oo-dah). Doubled vowels are each pronounced. Except dipthongs!

au	ah + oo	two distinct syllables	aut, lauda
eu	eh + oo	two distinct syllables	euge
aa	ah-ah		
ii	ee-ee		filii (fee-lee-ee)

dipthongs

au and eu are treated as single syllables, but each vowel is pronounced distinctly.

ae	eh	met	saeculum (seh-koo-loom), prae, illae
oe	eh	met	coelum, coepi

consonants

The consonants b, d, f, k, l, m, n, p, s, t, and v are pronounced as in English.

Double consonants are both sounded bello (behl-loo

c before e, i, y, ae, oe	ch	church	coelo (cheh-loh), certus, Cecília (che-cheé-lee-a)
c before other letters	k		cantus (kahn-toos)
cc before e, i, y, ae, oe	tch		ecce (eht-cheh), síccitas (seét-chee-tas)
ch	k	ache	cherubim (keh-roo-beem), Christus
g before e, i, y, ae, oe	j	is soft as in gel	genitum (jeh-nee-toom), gens, agit
g before a, o, u and consonants (except n)	g	is hard as in go	gaudeamus (gah-oo-deh-ah-moos), gratis, glo
gn	ny	'can you'canyon	agnus (ah-nyoos)
h at the beginning of a word	light, whispered breath		hosanna (o-sahn-ah)
h is mute, except in special instances	kh		mihi (mee-khee) and nihil (nee-kheel)

j	y	yellow	Jesu (yeh-soo)
qu	kw	quiet	qui (kwee)
r when preceeded by or followed by a vowel	lightly rolled with the tongue		carnis, Kyrie: Say Kée-ree-e not Kear-ee-e)
r when preceeded by or followed by a consonant	is trilled		
s	never "z" as in raise	sing	miser, fides
s between two vowels	a soft "z"	misery	
sc before e, l, y, ae, oe	sh	shall	ascendit (ah-shehn-deet), descendit, scio
sch	sk	school	paschali
th	pronounced as if the h were absent	Thomas	catholicam
ti before a vowel and after any letter except s, t, or x	tsee	tse-tse fly	gratia (grah-tsee-a), bratia, etiam
x in words beginning ex and followed by a vowel, h, or s	ks	exam	ex (ehks), exaudi, pax
xc before e, i, y, ae, oe	ksh		excelsis (ehk-shehl-sees)
x followed by a consonant or at the end of a word	ks	tax	excelsis
z	dz	seeds	Lazarus

accent

Ecclesiastical Latin is pronounced with a stress accent. If a word has two syllables, the accent is almost always on the first (as in 'regnum', 'dona', 'pater', 'panis'). If a word has more than two syllables, the accent is on the second syllable from the end if the syllable is long (as in 'perdona', 'regina', 'divinus'), but if this syllable is short, the accent is on the third syllable from the end (as in 'loquitur', 'dominus', 'populus').

To illustrate the above rules here are some phrases commonly encountered in Ecclesiastical Latin with an indication of their correct pronunciation:

gloria in excelsis Deo	'GLOR-i-a in eks-CHEL-sees DAY-o'	Glory to God in the highest
descendit de coelis	'day-SHEN-dit day CHAY-lees'	He came down from heaven
pax hominibus bonae voluntatis	'paks hom-IN-ib-us BON-ay vol-un-TAHTis'	Peace to men of good will
exspecto resurrectionem mortuorum	'eks-PEK-to re-surr-EKS-ee-ON-em mort-u-AWE-rum'	I hope for the resurrection of the dead