

Glossary of Words and Latin Phrases

Act of Contrition — a traditional Catholic prayer said by sinners who are repentant for their sins

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam — “to the greater glory of God”

in a bake — angry

bally — a euphemism for “bloody,” a British curse

black twist — a cigarette of tobacco leaves twisted together

boatbearer — a participant in the Catholic Mass who carries the container of incense (the “boat”)

Bonum est in quod tendit appetitus — “The good is in that toward which the appetite tends”

cachou — a cashew mint

camaun — a piece of equipment in the sport of hurling; the stick used to hurl the ball

car — a two-wheeled horse-driven carriage

catafalque — a structure upon which a dead body is laid for viewing

catechism — a set of formal questions and answers that sums up Catholic beliefs

chasuble — a sleeveless garment worn by a priest when leading Mass

ciborium — a container for the host used during Mass

cock — a faucet

come-all-you — a form of pub song that begins with the phrase “Come all you. . . .”

Confiteor — a Catholic prayer said at the beginning of Mass; literally, “I confess”

constitutional — a walk or stroll taken for health purposes

Contrahit orator, variant in carmine vates — “An orator concludes, poets vary in their rhyming”

cope — a long semicircular vestment

cassock — a close-fitting, ankle-length garment worn by Catholic clergy

Credo ut vos sanguinarius mendax estis . . . quia facies vostra monstrat ut vos in damno malo

humore estis — “I believe that you are a bloody liar . . . because your face shows that you are in a damned bad mood.”

Davitt, Michael — a radical leader of Irish land reform who served time in prison for trying to smuggle arms into Ireland

dead mass — a Mass said for the dead

Dominicans — a Catholic order of monks who focus on preaching the gospel

drisheen — a traditional Irish dish made of sheep's blood, chopped mutton, bread crumbs, milk, and other ingredients

Ego credo ut vita pauperum est simpliciter atrox, simpliciter sanguinarius atrox, in Liverpoolio

— “I believe that the life of the poor is simply atrocious, simply bloody atrocious, in Liverpool”

ego habeo — “I have”

ejaculation — a short prayer or exclamation

elements — required classes, such as Latin or mathematics

Et ignotas animum dimittit in artes — “And he sent forth his spirit among the unknown arts”; from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*

Et tu cum Jesu Galilaeo eras — “And you were with Jesus of Galilee”

false sleeves — pieces of material that hung from each shoulder of the soutane, the garment worn by Jesuits

feck — to steal

fender — a guard that keeps sparks from flying out of a fireplace

fenian movement — an Irish revolutionary movement

ferule — a flat rod of wood used to punish children; plural “ferulae” refers to the number of lashings a student gets

fireeater — a person who likes to argue

foxing — pretending

Franciscans — a Catholic order of monks who focus on asceticism
gallnut — an abnormal growth on a tree
gamecock — a bird bred for cockfighting
gibbet — a structure for hanging
gingernuts — gingerbread
glass — a monocle
greaves — shin guards
hacking chestnut — a chestnut used in a game of beating one chestnut against another until one breaks
haha — a fence or wall around a garden that is set in a ditch so as not to block the view
hamper — a basket of food
Hill of Allen — a flat-topped hill in County Kildare, Ireland, famous for its memorial to Finn MacCool, a third-century Irish hero
hoardings — a fence on which posters and advertisements have been pasted
hob — a shelf by a fireplace
hurling — a traditional Celtic sport similar to rugby and field hockey
in tanto discrimine — “in so many disputes”
in vitam eternam — “into eternal life”
India mittit ebur — “India exports ivory”
Indian club — a club used for gymnastics
Inter ubera mea commorabitur — “My beloved is to me a bag of myrrh that lies between my breasts”; from the Song of Solomon in the Bible
ipso facto — “obviously”
Ite, missa est — “Go, the Mass is ended”; spoken at the end of Roman Catholic Mass
Jakeen — a lower-class person
jingle — a covered, two-wheeled wagon
Kentish fire — strong applause, accompanied by stamping the feet
kisser — slang for “face”
lemon platt — lemon-flavored candy
”Madam, I never eat muscatel grapes” — a line from *The Count of Monte Cristo* spoken by the hero, Dantès (the count of the title), claiming that he cannot eat any food in the house of his enemy
maneen — an Irish diminutive for “men”
monstrance — a container in which the host, or communion, is displayed in Roman Catholic ceremonies
muff — a person who is awkward at sports
mulier cantat — “a woman is singing”
Nos ad manum ballum jocabimus — “Let’s go play handball”
novena — a Catholic devotion involving prayers said over the course of nine days
number — a locker
oilsheet — a cotton fabric treated with oil to make it waterproof
pange lingua gloriosa — “celebrate with a boastful tongue”
paten — in Catholic tradition, a plate on which bread is placed for consecration
Paulo post futurum — “It’s going to be a little later”
Pax super totum sanguinarium globum — “Peace over the whole bloody globe”
to peach on — to tattle or inform on
per aspera ad astra — “through adversity to the stars”
per pax universalis — “for universal peace”
pernobilis et pervetusta familia — “a very noble and ancient family”
pierglass — a tall mirror between two windows

pope's nose — the fleshy part of the chicken to which the tail feathers are attached
prefect — a teacher who leads a class or organization
press — a piece of furniture used for keeping clothes
provincial — a provincial head of a religious order
Pulcra sunt quae visa placent — “The beautiful is that which pleases one's sight”
punch — a hot alcoholic drink
Quis est in malo humore . . . ego aut vos? — “Which one is in bad mood . . . me or you?”
quod — “what”
real Ally Dally — slang for “the best” or “the real deal”
to redden a pipe — to light a pipe
refectory — a dining hall
ripping — slang for “the best”
risotto alla bergamasca — an Italian rice dish prepared in the style of the city of Bergamo
rosary — a series of Catholic prayers usually said with rosary beads
sacristy — a room where religious vessels and clothes are kept
sailor's hornpipe — a kind of dance popular with sailors
scribbler — a notebook
seawrack — seaweed washed up on the beach
seraphim — the highest order of angels, according to Catholic theology
sick in your breadbasket — slang for “sick to your stomach”
sideboard — a piece of furniture used for keeping dining items such as tablecloths and silverware
singlet — an undershirt
slim jim — a strip of candy
smuggling — a slang term for homosexual play
Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary — a lay religious association honoring the mother of Jesus
soutane — a garment worn by Jesuits
square ditch — a cesspool
stone — a measure of mass, equivalent to fourteen pounds
suck — a sycophant; someone who follows without question; a brownnoser
sums and cuts — math theorems
super spottum — “on this very spot”
surd — an irrational number
surplice — a loose white outer vestment with open sleeves, worn by Catholic clergy
Synopsis Philosophiae Scholasticae ad mentem divi Thomae — “Summary of the Philosophy and Scholastic Opinions of Saint Thomas”
Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis — “The times change and we change in them”
Thoth — the Egyptian god of wisdom, learning, writing, and the arts; equivalent to the Greek god Hermes or the Roman god Mercury
the three theological virtues — faith, hope, and charity
third of grammar — the level of an advanced student
thurible — a container in which incense is burned
toasted boss — a heated footstool
tram — a horse-drawn streetcar
venial sin — a minor sin
Vexila Regis — “royal flag”
villanelle — a poetic form that is French in origin, nineteen lines long, with strict rhyming conventions
in a wax — angry
Whitsuntide — the Christian feast of Pentecost, which occurs the seventh Sunday after Easter
yard — a urinal