Pronunciation: Latin (French Baroque)

The table below gives a guide to pronunciation. In general, the table gives *exceptions* to the usual 'Italianate' pronunciation of church Latin, i.e. where a vowel or consonant is not listed in the table, it should be pronounced as per the usual 'Italianate' system.

Latin: French Baroque (late 17th - early 18th century)

(e.g. Charpentier, Campra, Rameau)

Letter	Examples in text	Pronunciation
A	*peccata*	As in French s**a**lle
Æ	*ædes*	As in French **é**té
Æ (in closed syllable)	*æs*	As in French p**è**re
AM, AN (if final or followed by a vowel, M, N, or -QUE)	*tam, tamque, annuntiate, stellam, flammam*	Not nasal - pronounced as for Italianate Latin
AM, AN (if followed by another consonant)	*ante, lætantur, hanc, plorans, sanctus*	Nasal, as in French **an**cien, **am**ple
AU	*aut, aurum*	As in French s**au**ter
E	*credo*	As in French **é**té
E (in closed syllable)	*sedet*	As in French p**è**re
EM, EN (if final or followed by a vowel, M, N, or -QUE)	*Amen, pacem, dicent, dicens*	Not nasal - pronounced as for Italianate Latin
EM, EN (if followed by another consonant)	*semper, lætentur, redemptor, sacramentum*	Nasal, as in French r**ie**n, b**ie**n, fa**i**m (*not* as in **em**bouchure)
-ER, -ES, -EL	*est, dispersit*	As in French b**ê**te
EU (as monophthong)	*euripus*	As in French **eu**x
EU (as diphthong)	*Deus, meus*	Pronounce diphthong: d**éü**s
I (as final vowel)	*respexit*	As in French r**i**re (i.e. long)
I (otherwise)	*humilitatem*	As in French s**i** (i.e. short)
IM, IN (in final position)	*in, enim*	Not nasal - pronounced as for Italianate Latin
IM, IN (otherwise)	*ingratus, imperium*	Nasal, as in French **im**portant, **in**curable
O	*post, liberos, amando, illo*	As in Italian m**o**lto, but long and short variants depending on position - as in Italianate Latin
Œ	*pœnitet*	Behaves as **E**
OM, ON (if followed by m or n; or if it is a final -OM)	*omnes, commutare, connubium*	Not nasal - pronounced as for Italianate Latin
OM, ON (otherwise)	*montem, fons*	Nasal - as in French pron**on**ce
ON (exceptions)	*non, Sion*	Not nasal - as in Italianate Latin
U	*Deus, unus, fluvius, manu*	As in modern French vol**u**me, or in modern German **ü**ber, but long and short variants as per **O**
UM, UN (if final or followed by a vowel, M, N, or -QUE)	*cum, dum, autumnus*	Not nasal, but **U** changes to **O** sound (*cum* = k**om**)

UM, UN (otherwise, apart from being followed by -C)	*sunt, mundi*	Slightly nasal, but **U** changes to **O** sound (*sunt* = **so**n)
UNC	*tunc, cuncti, defunctus*	Completely nasal as in French **un**
Y		Behaves as **I**
C, SC (before E, I, Æ, Œ, Y)	*ancilla, ascendit*	Sibillant: an**ss**illa, a**ss**endit
C (otherwise)	*cum, consilio*	Hard: **k**um, **k**onsilo
CH	*archangelum, brachio*	Always hard: bra**k**io
CC (before E, I, Æ, Œ, Y)	*accedo, ecce*	Pronounced **ks:** a**ks**edo, e**ks**e
CC (otherwise)	*ecclesium, accanto*	Hard: e**k**lesium, a**k**anto
G (before E or I)	*genitum, agimus*	As in modern French ar**g**ent
G (otherwise)	*gloria*	Hard: **gh**loria
GN	*agnus, signifer, regnum*	As in modern French si**g**ne (i.e. as per usual Italianate pronunciation)
GU (before A, E, I)	*sanguine*	As per Italianate pronunciation: san**gw**ine
GU (before O, U)	*arguo, ambiguus*	Hard **g** and umlaut **ü**: ar**ghü**o
H	*mihi*	Not sounded: m**ii** (BUT, *Hiersulalem* as consonantal I/J)
I/J (consonantal)	*Ierusalem, Jesus, ejus*	As in modern French **j**oli
QU (before A, Æ, E, I, O,)	*quo, qui, quem, quæ*	As in modern English **qu**estion
QU (before u)		As in modern French **qu**i
R		Trilled (not as in modern French)
S (in final position)	*tollis*	Never dropped - always sounded, so tollee**ss**
S (between vowels)	*Jesus*	Pronounced **z**, even if the vowels are in seprate words and separated by a final s, so: *quia nullus est* is kwia nüllü**z** est
S (otherwise) and PS (as initial letters)	*est, psallite*	Sibillant: e**ss**t, **ss**allite
T, TH	*et, resurrexit*	As in modern English; final T is not dropped
TI (followed by vowel)	*etiam*	As in modern French sta**ti**on
STI	*creasti*	As per Italiantate pronunciation: **-sti**
XTI	*commixtio*	As per Italiantate pronunciation: **-ksti**
X	*pax, auxiliare*	As per Italiantate pronunciation: **-ks**;
	exaudio	BUT: *ex + vowel* = **gz** (e**gz**audio)

Genera Syllable boundaries are made before and between consonants: *u - ni - ge - ni - tum*, **not** un - i - gen - it – um but not split after **s**: *Chri - stum; a - scen - dit*