



Saturday 27th April 2019

12.30 pm

**Latin for Family Historians
Workshop**



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Family Tree Live 26-27th April 2019 Alexandra Palace London

Workshop: Latin for Family Historians run by Sylvia Dibbs, Catholic Family History Society

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Why was Latin used in the past?

It was the language of the educated, professional and religious world throughout Europe.

When did English begin to take over?

In 1733 an Act of Parliament (George II) decreed that English should be used in all public records. Some clergymen continued to use Latin and in particular the Catholic clergy.

Why did Latin persist in Roman Catholic life until the 1960s?

Latin continued to be the unifying language of the Catholic Church around the world until the 2nd Vatican Council in 1962.

Church versus Classical Latin; Priests' Latin.

Church (ecclesiastical) Latin is a later form than Classical, originating from the everyday Latin of the 3rd century. It is less formal and rigid and its pronunciation is based on Italian. Priests often had a small working vocabulary which was enough to fill out registers and perform the church services. Sometimes the Latin was incorrect. They had to invent words for modern life.

Latin lingering in English words: everyday, scientific, technical, medical, legal.

versus = against

pronuntiare = pronounce

cor, cordis = heart, coronary, cordial

axis = axis, axle

virus = slime, poison

affidavit = he has sworn, a formal statement of fact

Latin Grammar: outline.

Latin uses the ending of words to identify their use in a sentence. Many European languages still do this but English is now more stream-lined, except with 'pronouns':

*I gave **him my** book so that **he** had **his** own copy. **He** thanked **me** for giving **him** a copy that had been **mine**.*

Latin nouns are grammatically 'male', 'female' or 'neutral'. The words which describe them, adjectives, change to match or 'agree' with them. The order of words in Latin sentences is less important than in English, because the ending of words in Latin is often key to the meaning.

Examples: *Mary sees a boy* is different from *A boy sees Mary*; but *She sees him* has the same meaning as *Him sees she* or *Him she sees*. The sense relies on the change from 'he/she' to 'him/her'. Without grammatical word changes, the sense in English depends entirely on word order eg *Mary sees Charles*, is different from *Charles sees Mary*. In Latin: *Maria videt Carolum*; *Carolus videt Mariam*. Grammatically these keep the same meaning even if the words are moved around: *Carolus videt Maria* and *Mariam videt Carolus*. The clue is in the endings.

Sample Latin sacramental register entries, shown here with literal translations, are of: Baptism, Matrimony, Anointing the dying. There may be records of Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Holy Orders (becoming a priest). Administering a sacrament has rites and rituals and bestows holiness/spiritual membership on the recipient.

Anno 1903 die 10 mensis Novembris, Rose Lynch, (Monialis) ex Baddesley
ætatis 49, in communione S. Matris Ecclesie animam Deo reddidit Sacramentis munit a, ^{enclosed.} cujus corpus die 12
mensis Novembris sepultum est in Coemeterio Conventuali huic Ecclesie adnexa
a me Bernardo B. Grafton

Anno 1903 die 10 mensis Novembris Rose Lynch (Monialis) ex Baddesley

enclosed

In the year 1903 day 10 month of November, Rose Lynch (nun) from Baddesley

ætatis 49, in communione S. Matris Ecclesie animam Deo reddidit Sacramentis munita ,
cujus corpus die 12

aged 49, in communion with Holy Mother Church, her soul to God returned, by the Sacrament fortified,
whose body day 12

mensis Novembris sepultum est in Coemeterio Conventuali huic Ecclesie adnexa

month of November, buried is in the Cemetery convent, this Church attached to.

A me Bernardo B. Grafton

by me Bernard B. Grafton

Source: Burial register of Baddesley Clinton Birmingham Archdiocesan Archive

Note

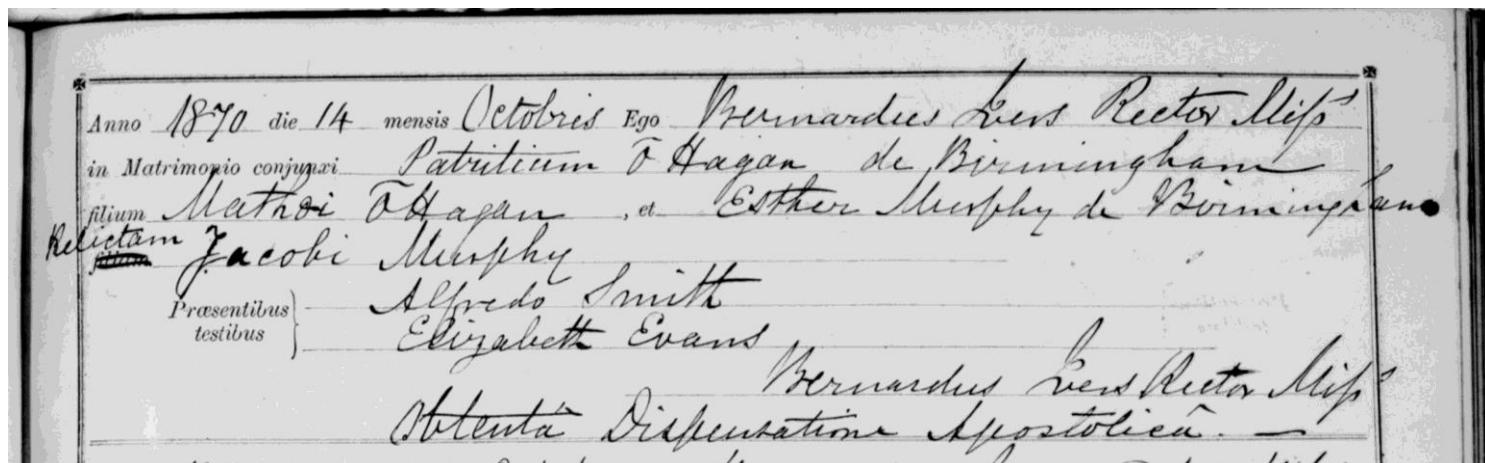
munit... fortified, leaves the ending blank for the priest to fill in, with 'a' for a woman and 'us' for a man, munita or munitus. Interesting that modern English word munitions or ammunition come from this!

In Coemeterio Coventuali : in is followed by the ablative case and so the adjective is also in the ablative case: in the conventual [adjective describing] cemetery [noun].

Oe and ae are 'fused', a diphthong.

Family History

Further research reveals that this convent was an enclosed order of the Poor Clares. It closed in 2011.



Anno 1870 die 14 mensis Octobris Ego Bernardus Kers Rector Miss^s

In the year 1870 day 14 of October I Bernard Kers Rector Missionaris

in Matrimonio conjuxi Patritium O'Hagan de Birmingham

in matrimony joined Patrick O'Hagan of Birmingham

filium Mathei O'Hagan, et Esther Murphy de Birmingham

son of Mathew O'Hagan, and Esther Murphy of Birmingham

Relictam Jacobi Murphy [*filiam crossed out*]

Relict [*widow*] of Jacob [*James*] Murphy

Praestentibus}

Alfredo Smith

testibus }

Elizabeth Evans

In the presence}

Alfred Smith

of witnesses }

Elizabeth Evans

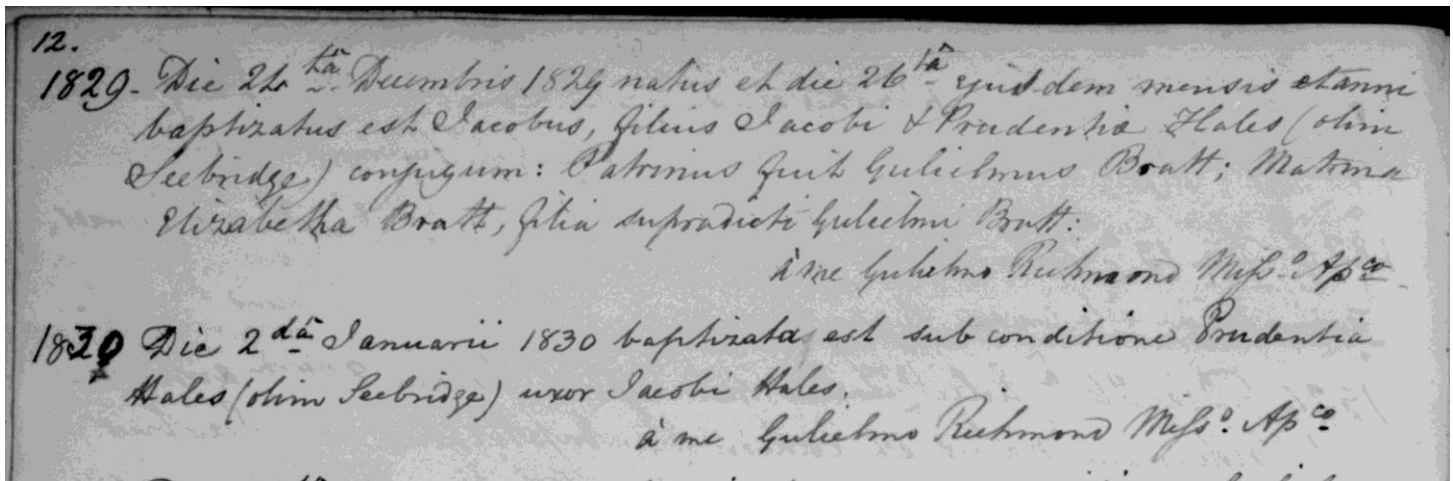
Bernardus Kers Rector Miss^o

Obtenta Dispensatione Apostolica

Bernard Kers Rector Missionaris

Obtained dispensation Apostolic

Source: Marriage registers of St Peter's Church, Birmingham Archdiocesan Archive



12.

1829. Die 24^{ta} Decembris 1829 natus et 26^{ta} ejusdem mensis et anni

Day 24th of December 1829 born and 26th of the same month and year

baptizatus est Jacobus, filius Jacobi & Prudentia Hales (olim

baptised is Jacob (*James*), son of Jacob (*James*) & Prudence Hales (formerly

Seebridge) conjugem: Patrinus fuit Gulielmus Bratt; Matrinx

Seebridge) married: godfather was William Bratt; godmother

Elizabetha Bratt, filia supradicti Gulielmi Bratt:

Elizabeth Bratt, daughter of the above named William Bratt;

a me Gulielmo Richmond Miss° Ap°

by me William Richmond Missionary Apostolic

1830. Die 2^{da} Januarii 1830 baptizata est sub conditione Prudentia

Day 2nd of January 1830 baptised is, under conditions, Prudence

Hales (olim Seebridge) uxor Jacobi Hales

Hales (formerly Seebridge) wife of Jacob (*James*) Hales.

a me Gulielmo Richmond Miss° Ap°

by me William Richmond Missionary Apostolic

Note (NB = nota bene = note well)

Latin Ordinal number: 24^{us} = vicesimus quartus

day = dies;

on the day = die;

on the 24th day = die vicesima quarta (feminine ablative)

Miss° Ap° = missionario apostolico (masculine ablative)

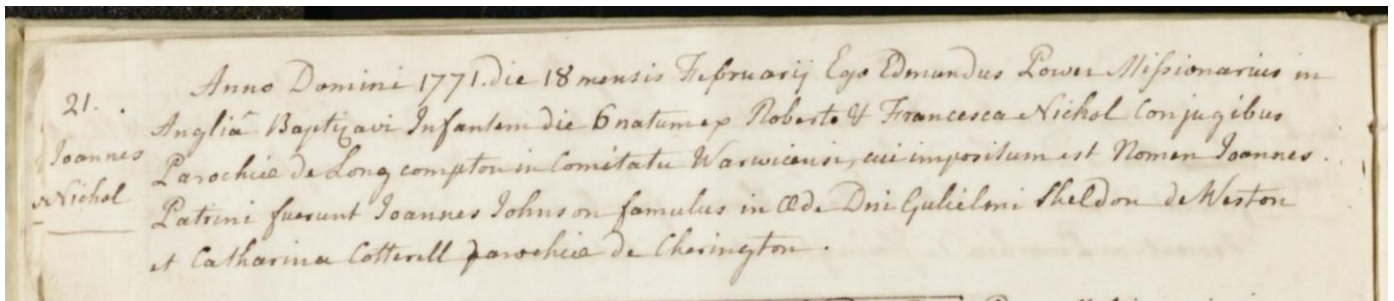
Gulielmus = subject of sentence, nominative case, *William was*....

Gulielmi = shows possession, genitive case, *William's daughter*....

Gulielmo = shows by, with or from, ablative case, *by William*.....

The conditional baptism of Prudence, an adult, may be because she converted to Catholicism.

Source: Baptismal register of Swynnerton, Birmingham Archdiocesan Archive



21. Anno Domini 1771 die 18 mensis Februarii Ego Edmundus Power Missionarius in

In the year of Our Lord 1771 day 18 of the month of February, I, Edmund Power Missionary in
Joannes

Nichol Anglia Baptizavi Infantem die 6 natum ex Roberto & Francesca Nichol conjugibus
England, baptised an infant, day 6th born of Robert and Frances Nichol, married,

Parochiae de Longcompton in Comitatu Warwickensi cui impositum est Nomen
Joannes

of the Parish of Longcompton in the County of Warwickshire, who given is the name John.

Patrini fuerunt Joannes Johnson famulus in cl [?] De Dni Gulielmi Sheldon de
Weston

Godparents were John Johnson servant [*in the service of?*] of Sir/Lord William Sheldon of
Weston

et Catharina Cotterill parochiae de Cherington.

and Catharine Cotterill of the parish of Cherington.

Written more normally:

In the year of Our Lord 1771, on the 18th of February, I, Edmund Power, Missionary in England, baptised an infant who was born on the 6th, of Robert and Frances Nichol, married, of the parish of Longcompton in the County of Warwickshire and given the name John. Godparents were John Johnson, servant of Sir William of Weston and Catherine Cotterill of the Parish of Cherington.

Note

Dni = Domini Gulielmi, genitive case showing possession, servant *of Sir William* of Weston.

Source: Baptismal register of Brailes, Birmingham Archdiocesan Archive

Vice 31 Julii 1855 Ego Joannes Kyne Rectyliter
apud Ecclesiam Sanctae familiae Westminster. Nullo
legitimo impedimento detecto Constantium
Magnum (146 St. Stephen Hill) filium Edwardi
et Mariae Magnus (Sisterland) et Eleonora
Fitzgerald (12 Kenilworth St. Carey St.) filiam
Garnet et Elizabeth Fitzgerald (12 Kenilworth
St. Carey St.) inter se coniungere
mutuo consensu habito per archidiaconum
praesentis matrimonii confusum, Praesentibus
testibus Rev^{do} Jacobo Gilligan et
Marie King (Kenilworth St. Carey St.)
Joannes Kyne

The phrases used are 'formulaic' and found as standard in many registers. Some may still be found in modern legal phrases.

[illegible]

Die 31 Julii 1855 Ego Joannes Kyne Presbyter
Day 31 of July 1855 I, John Kyne, priest

apud Ecclesiam Sanctae Familiae Westminster nullo
at the Church of the Holy Family Westminster no

legitimi impedimenti detecti Constantinium
legitimate impediment being found, Constantine

Maguire (144 Gt Saffron Hill) filium Edvardi
Maguire (144 Gt Saffron Hill) son of Edward

Maguire &
Fitzgerald

et Maria Maguire (Liskeard) et Eleonoram
and Maria Maguire (Liskeard), and Eleonora

Fitzgerald (12 Hemlock Ct Carey St) filiam
Fitzgerald (12 Hemlock Ct Carey St) daughter

Ganet & Elizabethae Fitzgerald (12 Hemlock
of Ganet & Elizabeth Fitzgerald (12 Hemlock

Ct Carey St) interrogavi eorumque
Ct Carey St) I asked, their

mutuo consensu habito per verba de
mutual consent, being received by word of those

praesenti matrimonio conjunxi Praesentibus
present, in matrimony joined; In the presence of

testibus Rev^{do} Jacobo Gilligan et
witness Rev^d. Jacob [*James*] Gilligan and

Maria King (Hemlock Ct Carey St)
Maria [*Mary*] King (Hemlock Ct Carey St)

Joannes Kyne
John Kyne

Note

The phrases used are 'formulaic' and found as standard in many registers. Some may still be found in modern legal phrases.

Source: Soho Square, Westminster Archdiocesan Archive

Robinson

Die 29 mensis Januarii horam circa sextam, ante
meridiem apud Sproatley Grange, domo igne succensa.
Henricus Robinson aetatis 78. Elizabetha Grant Robinson.
aetatis 67. Clara Robinson, proxime in matrimonium danda
aetatis 35, omnes fumis suffocati, perierunt. Clara quidem
ut parentes eriperet cubiculum ingrediens corruit.
Die 1 Februarii apud Marton, sepulti erunt in
coemeterio. Quorum animabus propitiatur Deus.

1867

Die 29 mensis Januarii horam circa sextam, ante
Day 29 month of January [at the] hour around six, before

meridiem apud Sproatley Grange, domo igne succensa,
noon at Sproatley Grange, with the house fire set alight,

Robinson

Henricus Robinson aetatis 78, Elizabetha Grant Robinson
Henry Robinson aged 78, Elizabeth Grant Robinson

aetatis 67, Clara Robinson, proxime in matrimonium danda
aged 67, Clara Robinson, soon in matrimony to be given

aetatis 35, omnes fumis suffocati perierunt. Clara quidem
aged 35, all, by fumes suffocated, died. Clara indeed

ut parentes eriperet cubiculum ingrediens corruit.
so that the parents she was rescuing the bedroom entering, she fell down.
[Clara, indeed, fell down when entering the bedroom to rescue her parents.]

Die 1 Februarii apud Marton sepulti erunt in
Day 1 of February at Marton buried they were in

coemeterio. Quorum animabus propitiatur Deus.
the cemetery. Their souls forgive, God.
[May God forgive their souls]

Note

This original image revealed much more than the Findmypast transcription. Further research online brought up a newspaper report of the event and family details in *Catholic Record Society, Miscellanea VI*, page 267. The wife and daughter were not listed on Findmypast.

Hint

If a word is difficult to decipher, try finding it in another record on the same page, where the writing may be clearer. Latin word order in a sentence is different from in English.

Source: Middlesbrough Diocesan Archives

Latin as in register	English	notes
a Catholico obtenta debita dispensatione	with respect to the Catholic, due dispensation obtained	
a me	by me	
adnecto; adnexum	attached to	
aetatis suae	aged / in the day/month/year of his / her age	
affin spiritualis	related spiritually, through marriage	
amita	aunt, sister of father	
anima, animum	soul	
animabus	soul	archaic, Liturgy of the Dead
anno domini	in the year of our Lord	
anno regis	in the year of King...	
annus	year	
ante meridium	morning, before noon	
apud	near, from by a place	
apud Plasto prope Londinium	from by Plaistow near London	
avunculus	uncle, brother of mother	
baptizata [fuit]	was baptised, a girl	
baptizatus	was baptised, a boy	
baptizavi	baptised	I baptised
cappella	chapel	
coemeterio, in	in the cemetery	from coemeterium
comitatus	county	
communione S. Matris Ecclesiae, in	in communion with Holy Mother Church	
Congregatus Passionis sacerdos	priest of the Passionists' Order	
conjugibus	(being) married)	
conjugum	married	
conjuncti fuerunt	were joined [in marriage]	
conjuncti sunt	are joined [in marriage]	
conventualis	convent	in coemeterio conventuali = in the convent cemetery
coram	personally	
cuius / cujus / quius	whose	j not used in classical Latin, but seen in registers
de	of	
defuncti	the dead / deaths	
dierum	of days, aetatis 9 dierum = age of 9 days	
dies	day	
disp[ensatio] mixtae religionis obtenta	dispensation due to mixed religion obtained	
ecclesia	church	
ego	I	
eiusdem	of the same	

ejusdem	of the same	j not used in classical Latin, but seen in registers
eodem die/mense/anno	on the same day/month/year	
eorumque	their	
erant	were/they were	
et	and	
ex discipulis Calvini	from the followers of Calvin	discipulus = disciple
famulus	servant	
filia	daughter	filiam
filius	son	filium
frater	brother	
fue ^r [e]	have been/they have been;	seems to be an abbreviation
fuerunt	have been/they have been	
fuit	was	
habuit	has/held	habeo
huius/hujus	of this	
ibidem	of the same place	
impositum	is given	cui impositum = who is given [the name]
in Domino	in the Lord	in Domino obdormisit, fell asleep in the Lord
infans	infant	infantis, of the child
inierunt [matrimonium inierunt]	they entered upon marriage	from inieo, -re
interrogavi, eorumque mutuo habito consensu solemniter	[I] asked, having their mutual consent to solemnise.....	
ita	so, thus	ita testor
ita testor	thus witnessed	
jugo [in iugo]	bound [joined in marriage]	iugo, no j in old Latin; iugo = yoke
ma fu contraho avanti di me nel' anno 1803	my best guess: already contracted before me in the year past 1803	
mater	mother	matris = of the mother
matrimonium: 'in matrimonio conjunxi'	marriage: 'joined in' marriage	
matrina	godmother	
mensis	month	
Missionarius Anglia	English missionary	
missionarius Apostolica	apostolic missionary	priest responsible for a mission, no security of tenure
missionarius coadjutor	assistant priest	
monialis	nun	
mortis	dead	
munitus	fortified	
nata [subject, nominative]	born, girl	natam [object, accusative]
natus [subject, nominative]	born, boy	Natum [object, accusative]
nulla legitima impedimenta detecta	finding no legitimate impediments	detecto from detegero
obdormisit	fell asleep, died	from obdormisco, I fall asleep
obit	died	

obtenta Dispensatione ab impedimento mixtae Religionis	dispensation obtained due to mixed religion	
obtenta Dispensatione Apostolica	after obtaining an Apostolic dispensation	
olim	formerly / maiden name	
omnes	all	
parochia/ae	parish/of the parish	
pater	father	patris = of the father
patrinus	godfather	
per verba de praesenti	marriage entered into by the parties by their common consent, without solemnisation or authorised person	used in modern common law too
pereo, periere	I die, they died	
postridie	the day after	
praesedere	preside	
precedentis	in the preceding	anni precedentis = in the preceding year
presbyter	priest	
presentibus testibus	in the presence of witnesses	
pridie	yesterday	
primo gradus, in primo gradus	first cousin	
prioris	first/more important	
propitius	forgiving	
proxime in matrimonium danda	soon to be given in matrimony	
Rector Missionaris	permanent priest with security of tenure	
reddidit	returned	
registrum baptismale	baptismal register	
relicta, relictam	widow	
relictus, relictum	widower	
sacerdos	priest	
sacramentis	by the sacrament	
secundo gradus, in secundo gradus	second cousin	
sepultus est / sepulta est	he / she was buried	
soror	sister	
sponsores	sponsors/godparents	
sub conditione	conditional/under conditions	for an adult/ a child who may have been baptised elsewhere/in emergency/a convert
supradictus	the above named	
susceptores	godparent/one who undertakes responsibility	
tantum	only	
testis / praesentibus testibus	witness / in the presence of witness[es]	
trigesimo	on the thirtieth [day]	
unidecimo	on the eleventh [day]	
uxor	wife	
vero	in truth/actual	
vidua	widow	
viduus	widower	

vinculo [in vinculo]
vulgo dictam

in chains, bound in marriage
commonly called

Useful websites

<https://www.thoughtco.com/ordinal-latin-numbers-119484>

<https://catholicfhs.wordpress.com>

<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Latin>

latindictionary.wikidot.com

<https://www.quia.com/jg/715977list.html>

<https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/stage-1-latin>

for ordinal numbers

search: Latin or scroll to 22 Aug 2012,
for examples

dictionary

dictionary

months and days

a Latin course; try 'Latin' in the
'search' box

Very Basic Grammar, very simplified

As with other European languages, words have different jobs in a sentence:

NOUNS are naming words.

ADJECTIVES are words describing the noun.

VERBS are doing words.

These words can change their format to give meaning in a sentence. In Latin there are five groups [declensions] of nouns which change [decline] in different ways.

NOUNS 'decline' with different 'cases' and adjectives 'agree' with them.

Nominative for the subject of the action/verb,

Accusative for the object of the action/verb,

Genitive shows possession,

Dative shows the recipient of the action/verb,

EXAMPLES using English, which has lost most of the changes.

The	little	boy	catches	the	red	ball.
		subject				object
	adjective	noun	verb		adjective	noun
	<i>nominative</i>	<i>nominative</i>			<i>accusative</i>	<i>accusative</i>

The	boy	gives	the	ball	to the baby.
	<i>nominative</i>		<i>accusative</i>		<i>dative</i>

The	baby	has	the ball	the boy's ball.
	<i>nominative</i>		<i>accusative</i>	<i>genitive [example of a change]</i>

The	babies	played	with balls.
	<i>nominative plural</i>		<i>ablative plural</i>

VERBS change to show the number doing the action and the time when it happened.

English and Latin have many complex changes to express subtleties in meaning.

These are in the 'active mood':

The priest baptises the boy.	The priests baptise the boys.	The priest baptised the boy.
<i>present tense</i>	<i>present, plural</i>	<i>past tense</i>

The priest will baptise the boy.

future tense

These are in the 'passive mood':

The boy is baptised.	The boys are baptised.	The boy was baptised.	The boy will be baptised.
<i>present tense</i>	<i>present, plural</i>	<i>past tense</i>	<i>future tense</i>

If in doubt just 'search' a word or phrase on the internet with the word 'Latin' and see what comes up!
Local libraries will have Latin dictionaries and other books to help. Try their family/local history section.

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES