
HEART SPEAKS TO HEART: THE GIFT OF HOLY COMMUNION

GLOSSARY

Alb	A full length white robe worn by priests, deacons and (as one option) by altar servers.
Alleluia	A word which means "Praise the Lord" and is sung to announce the Gospel during Holy Mass (except during Lent).
Altar	A large table-like structure made of stone or wood at the centre of the Sanctuary of a Catholic church where the Liturgy of the Eucharist is celebrated. In a Catholic church the Altar is covered with cloths and adorned with lighted candles to show what a special place the Altar is in our churches.
Ambo	An oblong, raised desk-like structure made of stone or wood and also on the Sanctuary. The readings during Holy Mass are read from the Ambo. Sometimes there is also a LECTERN in front of the Presidential Chair (a tall stand with a sloping top) from which the priest leads prayers and reads the notices.
Amen	A word which means something like: "Yes! It is true!" or "It is so".
Apostle	One of the main disciples of Jesus, chosen and sent out to teach and proclaim the faith.
Baptism	The Sacrament of rebirth and welcome into God's Church.
Bishop	A successor of the apostles who leads and guides the Church in a particular area of the Church (an area known as a DIOCESE).
Candlemas	A feast of the Church celebrated on 2 nd February (40 days after Christmas) to mark the Presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. On this day candles are blessed.
Cassock	A full length robe (usually black or red) worn by altar servers during Holy Mass (as an alternative to an alb).

Chair Missal	A small book containing prayers which altar servers may hold up for the priest when he leads prayers from the Presidential Chair.
Chalice	A large metal cup which holds the wine which becomes the Precious Blood of Christ. A chalice is usually covered with a PALL (a cardboard square encased in linen) during the Eucharistic Prayer to protect the Precious Blood of Christ.
Christ	A term used to describe Jesus. Christ means the "anointed one".
Choir	A group of singers who take part in and lead parts of the singing during Holy Mass. A solo singer is known as a CANTOR : a Cantor may sing the Psalm during Holy Mass.
Cloths	During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, three types of cloth are used:
Corporal	A square white linen cloth on which chalices and patens are placed during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
Purificator	A small white linen cloth used to wipe a chalice clean.
Lavabo Cloth	A small white linen cloth used to wipe the priest's hands.
Confession	A word which means admitting that we have done wrong. 'Confession' is another name we use for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
Confirmation	The Sacrament in which we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit to serve God and His Church.
Consecration	The moment during Holy Mass when the bread becomes the Body of Christ and the wine becomes the Blood of Christ.
Corpus Christi	The name of a great feast of the Church when we honour the Body and Blood of Christ. Corpus Christi means "The Body of Christ".

Cotta	A short white garment which is worn by altar servers over the cassock.
Credence Table	A small side table on the Sanctuary which holds objects used during the celebration of Holy Mass.
Crucifix	A cross with the body of Jesus upon it.
Creed	A summary of our Catholic faith which we recite during Holy Mass.
Deacon	A man set apart (or 'ordained') to serve the Church and to assist the Priest during Holy Mass.
Epiphany	A feast of the Church celebrated on 6 th January to mark the visit to and adoration of the child Jesus by the wise men.
Eucharist	A word which means "thanksgiving" and is another word used to describe Holy Mass. We usually speak about the Sacrament of the Eucharist.
Eucharistic Prayer	The great prayer of thanksgiving spoken by the Priest at the heart of Holy Mass (during which the Consecration takes place).
Font	A large piece of church furnishing made of stone or wood which includes a basin to contain the Holy Water used during Baptism. Holy Water is water which has been blessed.
Gospel	One of four books (by St Matthew, St Mark, St Luke and St John) which tell about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Gospel is a word which means "Good News". A BOOK OF THE GOSPELS contains the gospel readings which are to be read during Holy Mass on Sundays and major feasts.
Holy Communion	The part of Holy Mass where we receive the Body and Blood of Christ. The term 'Holy Communion' is sometimes used to describe the whole of Holy Mass.

Holy Oils	<p>Special oils blessed by the Bishop during Holy Week before Easter. There are three Holy Oils:</p> <p>The Oil of CATECHUMENS (a Catechumen is someone preparing for Baptism): for strengthening the person preparing for Baptism to turn away from evil and sin (also known as the Oil of Baptism).</p> <p>The Oil of CHRISM: for anointing the newly baptised with the Holy Spirit. The Oil of Chrism is also used during Confirmation and during the Ordination of bishops and priests.</p> <p>The Oil of the SICK: for anointing the sick and those who are near to death.</p>
Holy Water Stoup	<p>A basin containing Holy Water which is found near the entrance of a Catholic church.</p>
Homily	<p>An explanation of the readings at Holy Mass delivered by the Priest or, at times, a Deacon.</p>
Host	<p>The unleavened bread used during Holy Mass (which has been cut into small circular pieces).</p>
Incense	<p>A substance which releases a sweet-smelling smoke when it is burned. During Holy Mass incense is contained in an INCENSE BOAT before it is placed on charcoal in a Thurible.</p>
Lectionary	<p>A book which containing the readings which are read during Holy Mass. There are three lectionaries (one for Sundays and the seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter; one for weekdays and feasts; one for special occasions).</p>
Liturgy	<p>The public worship of God.</p>
Missal	<p>A large book which contains the words and prayers used during Holy Mass.</p>
Organ	<p>A large musical keyboard instrument which is usually the main musical instrument played during Holy Mass.</p>

Parish	A small area of the Church run by a priest who is known as the Parish Priest.
Paschal Candle	A large candle blessed and first lit at Easter (Paschal is another word for 'Easter'). The Paschal Candle is lit during baptisms, funerals and the season of Easter.
Paten	A metal plate used to hold the bread which becomes the Body of Christ during Holy Mass. A CIBORIUM is a large metal cup with a lid used to hold the Body of Christ (especially in the Tabernacle).
Patron Saint	A saint to whose prayer a person, a church or a place is dedicated. Your patron saint may be the saint you are named after, etc.
Pentecost	A feast celebrated 50 days after Easter to mark the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus Christ.
Precious Blood	A term Catholics use to refer (respectfully) to the Blood of Christ.
Presidential Chair	The seat the Priest sits in as he leads (or 'presides' at) Holy Mass. In the Cathedral (the main church in a diocese) the Bishop has a special chair which is called a CATHEDRA .
Priest	A man set apart (or 'ordained') to preside at Holy Mass and lead the Church in a particular parish. During Holy Mass, the Priest wears special clothes called VESTMENTS . These clothes include a STOLE (a thin strip of material worn around the neck) and a CHASUBLE (a sleeveless outer garment). The priest wears different colours of stoles and chasubles at different times. Do you know why?
Processional Cross	The cross carried in procession during Holy Mass. Altar Servers also carry PROCESSIONAL CANDLES .
Psalm	A word for the songs of ancient Israel to praise and worship God. We sing or say a psalm during Holy Mass.

Reconciliation	The Sacrament in which we admit (or 'confess') our sins and receive the forgiveness of God.
Rites	Things which are said and done in church in the same way e.g. we always make the Sign of the Cross at the beginning of Holy Mass.
Rosary	A form of prayer using beads. On each bead we say a prayer (usually the 'Hail Mary') and reflect on the life of Mary and of Jesus Christ.
Sacrament	One of seven moments of transforming encounter with Jesus Christ which happen through the Church. Through words and signs we receive these seven gifts from God.
Sanctuary	A word which means "Holy Place". The Sanctuary is the area around the Altar where the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.
Scripture	A word which means "writing". Scripture is another word for the Bible (the holy writings about God).
Stoup	See under Holy Water Stoup above.
Tabernacle	A word which originally meant "tent". In a Catholic church, the Tabernacle is a box-like structure made of metal or heavy wood where the Body of Christ (or the Blessed Sacrament) is placed (or 'reserved').
Thurible	A metal container into which lighted charcoal is placed. When incense is placed on the charcoal, a sweet-smelling smoke is produced: the smoke represents our prayers going up before God.
<i>The Wednesday Word</i>	A weekly leaflet which helps people to explore the Gospel which is read during Holy Mass on Sunday.
Votive Candles	Votive means "offering". Votive candles are candles we light as we 'offer' a prayer for someone or something to God.
<i>YOUCAT for Kids</i>	A book for children which asks lots of questions about our faith – and gives lots of answers too!