

GLOSSARY

THE SHAPE OF THE MASS

Mass

The common name for the Eucharistic Liturgy of the Catholic Church. It may be referred to as the Sacrifice of the Mass, Eucharistic Celebration or Lord's Supper.

Liturgy

The public prayer of the Church.

Liturgy of the Word

The section of the Mass where the Scriptures are proclaimed and reflected upon. On Sundays and **major Feasts** there are three readings and a psalm:

1. Old Testament (except in Eastertide)
2. Psalm
3. New Testament (letters of Paul and others)
4. Gospel

Except on Holy Days schools will generally only need one reading, the psalm and the Gospel.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

The part of the Mass when the gifts are prepared and the Eucharistic Prayer is proclaimed. This is a solemn part of the Mass and people usually kneel. In a school building it is better if the children sit.

Entrance Procession

Priest (celebrant), deacon, altar servers enter the church or designated worship space. Everyone stands. It is appropriate to sing at this point.

Veneration of the Altar

The celebrant will reverence the altar with a kiss and the optional use of incense.

Greeting

The celebrant greets all present, expressing the presence of the Lord to the assembled community: 'The Lord be with you.' to which all reply: 'And with your Spirit'. This is not an 'hi, how are you?' moment!

Penitential Act

An acknowledgement by the whole assembly of the need for God's mercy.

Gloria

Ancient hymn of praise to God. It is used on Sundays and Holy Days outside of Advent and Lent. It is a song and where possible should always be sung.

Collect (Opening Prayer)

This prayer by the celebrant expresses the general theme of the celebration. Called the collect, it gathers and 'collects' the prayers of the gathered assembly. At the end of the Collect we sit for the Liturgy of the Word.

Responsorial Psalm

After the first reading there is a psalm response to the reading. The response, repeated after each verse, is said or sung by the people. The verses are led by a cantor or choir. Psalms are songs and should be sung whenever possible.

Gospel Acclamation

The acclamation of praise to God follows the second reading (or psalm if only one reading). It serves to prepare the assembly for the Gospel. In every season except Lent and Holy Week this takes the form of an 'Alleluia'. The assembly stands for the Gospel and should do in school also.

Homily

The homily (sermon) is when the priest reflects (breaks open the Word) on the Scripture readings and the application of the texts to the assembled community. We sit.

Profession of Faith

Also known as the Creed. This is when the whole assembly recalls and proclaims the fundamental teachings of the faith. It is used on all Sundays and solemnities. It will rarely be used in school, but children should be taught the Creed so that they can say it readily.

Prayer of the Faithful (Bidding Prayers)

Prayers of intercessions for all of humankind; for the Church, civil authorities, those in various needs, for the local community, the sick and those who have died. These are not prayers about individual people or places. It is best to avoid having 'many' children reading individual prayers. A sung response is appropriate to allow for a prayerful response.

Blessed Sacrament

The Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ, whether at Mass or reserved in a special place in the church. We genuflect when we come into church to acknowledge that Jesus is present in the Reserved Sacrament.

Preparation of the Gifts

The time in the Mass when the bread and wine to be used in the celebration are brought to the celebrant by members of the community.

Offertory Hymn

Music which accompanies the procession of the gifts to the celebrant as the altar is prepared. The Offertory hymn should end as soon as the priest has finished preparing the bread and wine.

Incense

Incense (material used to produce a fragrant smell when burned); used as a symbol of the Church's offering and prayer going up to God.

Washing of Hands

The celebrant washes his hands as an expression of the desire for inward purification. In earlier times, and still today in some parts of the world, the offertory gifts might include live animals and unwashed produce. Washing hands is then essential.

Prayer over the Gifts

The prayers by the celebrant asking that the gifts offered be made holy and acceptable.

Eucharistic Prayer

The prayer of thanksgiving and sanctification. It is the centre and high point for the entire celebration.

Preface Dialogue

The introductory dialogue between the celebrant and assembly in which all are invited to join in prayer and thanksgiving to God. Everyone stands. It is important that the children have access to or are taught the responses so that they can engage in the dialogue.

Preface

The first part of the Eucharistic Prayer which may be said or sung by the celebrant. The celebrant praises the Father and gives thanks for the work of salvation accomplished in Christ and the special reason for giving thanks on this particular day. It leads into the 'Sanctus'.

Holy, Holy (Sanctus)

The response of the community to the Preface and a continuation of the general theme of praise and thanks. The Sanctus is meant to be sung wherever possible. At the end of the Sanctus everyone kneels, or may sit if in a school building.

Epiclesis

The prayer in which the Church calls on the Holy Spirit, and asks that the gifts be offered to be consecrated, that is, become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ and that the victim (Christ) may become the source of salvation for all.

Transubstantiation

After the consecration the 'substance' of the elements (bread and wine) are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, whilst retaining the appearance of bread and wine.

Institution Narrative

The words and actions of Christ at the Last Supper when he instituted the sacrifice of the Mass and Holy Eucharist.

Anamnesis

The prayer that recalls the passion, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ.

Memorial Acclamation

The people's affirmation of faith. This is usually sung.

Second Epiclesis

The calling down of the Holy Spirit upon the Church, that by sharing the Eucharist it becomes and remains one body, one Spirit in Christ.

Intercessions

Prayers for the Church, the world, the Pope, clergy, laity and the dead.

Doxology

This Doxology concludes the Eucharistic Prayer. The Sacred Host and the chalice are held aloft as the celebrant proclaims 'Through him, and with him, and in him...' and the people acclaim 'Amen'.

Amen

Called the 'Great Amen'. It is the acclamation. This should always be sung.

Communion Rite

The part of the celebration which leads to the communion of the people. We stand.

Lord's Prayer

The prayer of petition for daily food, forgiveness of sins and deliverance from evil.

Embolism

The celebrant's prayer immediately after the Lord's prayer in which the same themes are developed: deliverance from evil, for peace and divine protection.

Sign of Peace

Before sharing the Body of Christ the members of the community are invited to express their unity and peace by turning to their neighbour and saying 'peace be with you'.

Breaking of Bread

Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)

The celebrant recreates gestures of Christ at the Last Supper when he broke bread to give to his disciples. The action signifies that, in communion, we who are many are made one in the Bread of Life which is Christ. The 'Lamb of God' may be sung. At the end of this we kneel.

Communion Hymn

The music that is played while Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ, is distributed to the faithful. As a rule, this should be something people can sing as they process to receive Communion or a blessing. It is gentle and reflective.

Holy Communion

After saying a preparatory prayer, the celebrant, and other priests, receive Communion, gives it to other designated ministers at the altar, and then to the congregation.

Prayer after Communion

The final prayer by the celebrant in which he petitions that the sacrament be beneficial for all. We stand.

Concluding Rite

A brief rite which consists of the celebrant's greeting to all present, final blessing and dismissal.

MINISTERS

Celebrant

The one who presides over the assembly and consecrates the Eucharistic Sacrament.

Concelebrants

Those priests and bishops who join the celebrant in celebrating Mass.

Deacon

An ordained minister who assists the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word and at the altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The deacon normally proclaims the Gospel.

Master of Ceremonies

One who assists in the preparation of the celebration and is present during it to facilitate the movement of the entire rite.

Server

One who assists in the celebration, i.e. carrying candles, at the Entrance, Gospel and Recessional procession.

Cross Bearer

The one who carries the cross in the procession (entrance and recessional).

Thurifer

The one who carries the thurible and assists the celebrant and deacon when incense is being used.

Reader

One who is called upon to proclaim the Scriptures during the Liturgy of the Word.

Cantor

One who sings the responsorial psalm during the liturgy.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Lay people who assist in the distribution of Holy Communion. These ministers must have been commissioned with the permission of the Bishop.

Assembly

Those present to celebrate the liturgy. Other words/phrases used are: Community, the Church (as people not building), 'the Faithful' or 'the Congregation'.

NOTE

It is the entire assembly (ordained and nonordained) that celebrates the liturgy of the Mass, therefore **avoid**: 'Pope's Mass, Bishop's Mass, his Mass etc. All such terms would give the impression that it is only the Pope or clergy who celebrate.

VESTMENTS

Vestment

The vesture the ministers wear. The colour of this will reflect the liturgical season.

Alb

The white garment covering one's street dress for participation in the liturgy.

Amice

A rectangular piece of white cloth, with two long ribbons at the top corners. It is worn around the priest's neck when the alb does not completely cover his ordinary clothing at the neck.

Cassock

A non-liturgical, full length, close-fitting robe for use by priests and other clerics under liturgical vestments; usually black for priests, purple for bishops and other prelates, e.g. monsignor, red for cardinals, white for the pope

Chasuble

The vestment worn over the alb by priests

Cincture

A long cord used for fastening the priest's alb at the waist

Crosier (Pastoral staff)

The staff which the bishop carries when he presides at liturgy

Dalmatic

The vestment the deacon wears over an alb on solemn occasions

Mitre

A headdress worn at some liturgical functions primarily by bishops and abbots

Pallium

Special stole made of lamb's wool worn over the chasuble by the pope and archbishops; it signifies communion of archbishops with the Holy See

Stole

The vestment worn around the neck by ordained ministers. For priests, bishops and the Pope, it hangs down in front (under the chasuble); the deacons wear it over their left shoulder, crossed and fastened at the side.

Zucchetto

Skull cap worn by the Pope (white) Cardinals (Red) Bishops (purple).

LITURGICAL OBJECTS

Altar (Table of the Lord)

A table on which the sacrifice of the Mass is offered. It is the centre of importance in the place where Mass is celebrated. In those schools which have an altar it is crucial that it is treated with dignity and respected in terms of where it is situated when Mass is not taking place.

Ambo/Lectern (Table of the Word)

The place where the Scriptures are proclaimed.

Aspergillum

A vessel or device used for sprinkling holy water.

Book of Gospels

The book which contains the Gospel texts from which the priest or deacon proclaims the Gospel of the day.

Bread and Wine

The elements used in the celebration of the Eucharist. These must be unleavened bread and natural pure wine. NOTE. After the consecration the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ and should no longer be referred to as bread and wine.

Cathedra

In the cathedral, the Bishop's chair (throne)

Cathedral

The major church in the archdiocese or diocese, as it is the seat of the local Bishop (Ordinary) and the church which 'houses' his chair, his cathedra

Celebrant's chair

The place where the celebrant sits: it expresses the office of presiding over the assembly and of leading prayer of those present.

Chalice

The cup made of metal used to hold the wine

Ciborium

A vessel used to hold the consecrated bread for the distribution of communion

Cruets

The containers/vessels holding the water and wine

Lectionary

The book that contains all the readings from the Scriptures for use in the celebration of the liturgy

Paten

The plate used to hold the bread and wine that will be consecrated during the Eucharistic Prayer

Processional Cross

The cross carried in the processions

Sacramentary/Missal

The book used by the celebrant, containing all the prayers for the Liturgy of the Mass

Tabernacle

The place in church where the Eucharist or sacred species is reserved

Thurible

A metal censer, suspended from chains, in which incense is burned during worship services