

THE SACRED VESSELS AND VESTMENTS

SACRED VESSELS

ALTAR

The altar is the table where the priest celebrates Mass.

ALTAR CLOTH

The large white cloth which covers the top of the altar

CHALICE

This cup holds the wine that becomes the blood of Christ.

PATEN

The paten is the plate that holds the large bread used by the priest at Mass.

CIBORIUM

The ciborium is the cup which holds the consecrated (made holy) communion hosts – the Body of Christ.

THE CORPORAL

This square cloth is placed on the altar, and the priest places the chalice, paten and ciborium on it during Mass.

PURIFIER

The purifier is a small white cloth used to wipe the chalice.

CRUETS

These two small jug-like containers are used to hold the water and wine used during Mass.

FINGER BOWL

This little bowl is used to wash the priest's fingers during the Offertory of the Mass.

THE TABERNACLE

This is where the consecrated hosts (from the previous Mass) are kept for Communion for the sick, and for those who wish to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary lamp is always burning near the tabernacle, to remind us of the constant love and presence of Jesus with us.

THE MISSAL

This book contains all the prayers the priest says with us during Mass. It always rests on the altar.

THE LECTIONARY

This book rests on the ambo. It contains all the readings from the Bible read during Mass (the Epistle and the Gospel). This book is often brought in procession at the beginning of Mass.

VESTMENTS

ALB

The long white robe worn by the priest at Mass.

STOLE

This is a long (scarf-like) garment worn around the priest's neck. It is always worn whenever the priest celebrates a sacrament.

CHASUBLE

This vestment is worn over the Alb.

The stole and chasuble are always matching colours.

Lent and Advent: the vestments worn are the colour purple, a symbol of penance.

Christmas and Easter: the vestments are white, a symbol of joy, birth and resurrection...new life.

Good Friday, Pentecost: the vestments are red, a symbol of the majesty of Christ, and the action of the Holy Spirit.

On Ordinary Sundays: the vestments are green, a symbol of hope.

THE SACRISTY

The sacred vessels and the vestments are kept in this room, called the sacristy. The priest vests for Mass in this room.