

# A teacher's guide to preparing the place for Mass

## What is Expected?

The place of celebration should be fit for purpose.

- When it is clean, tidy, and appropriately decorated, the place of celebration shows to us the importance and holiness of the Mass.
- Proper space must be provided for the dignified ministry of clergy, readers, musicians and others - and for the easy circulation of the congregation at the time of distribution of Holy Communion
- The place of worship must help the gathered community realise the unity it shares in Christ.

## What things are needed?

### Ambo

- The Lectionary
- (Text for Prayer of the Faithful)

### Altar

- White altar cloth
- White altar candles - 2, 4, or 6 (7 if it is the Archbishop presiding!)
- Crucifix (cross and corpus)- standing or flat on altar
- Altar Missal & concelebrants' books, if there are to be concelebrants.

### Credence Table

- Corporal
- Chalices, as needed
- Purificators - one for each chalice
- Jug of water
- Bowl for priest to wash his hands
- Lavabo towel
- Communion bowls, as needed

### Offertory Table

- Large altar bread for the priest to use
- Additional small altar breads
- Jug of wine

### Also

- Chasuble/stole for priest
- Processional candles for servers

## Ambo

The Ambo is the table of the Word. Where possible the design of the ambo should reflect the design of the altar - the table of the Lord's Supper.

It should be of a suitable size for the readers, but if very short children (or adults!) are reading, probably it is better for them to read from in front of the ambo, rather than standing on a box behind it.

It should face (at least the majority of) the congregation. It should be easily seen by all of the congregation.

If a microphone is to be used, readers should be made familiar with the best way to use it in good time before Mass begins.

The dignity of the Ambo means that it should be reserved for the proclamation of the Word - in readings, psalm, homily - and the Prayer of the Faithful. Another place should be found for other announcements.

## Altar

The altar should be at a proper height for the priest to stand at it, and large enough to hold with dignity all the things that need to be placed there, and the actions that take place there.

The altar should be stable, and dressed with dignity, fitting its sacred function.

The altar fittings - eg candle stands, crucifix - should be of a size appropriate to the size of the altar, and also so that they are clearly visible to the congregation.

## Use the right books

The Church requires that the Liturgical books used be fitting for the sacred Liturgy. Therefore the official editions of Lectionary and Missal should be used, and not Sunday or Week-day Missals.

However when Mass is in school, the study edition of the Lectionary and the Chapel edition of the Missal may be used.

