

The Parts of the Mass

Gathering

First, there is a gathering together. Catholics leave their ordinary life to gather and meet Jesus. The priest stands in the place of Jesus. He leads everyone in making the **sign of the cross**.



Healing

There is a time called the Penitential Rite. In this time the people say sorry to God for their sins and ask for healing.

Liturgy of the Word: Readings

In the Mass, people listen to readings from the Bible, the Word of God, read from the **lectern**.

The priest then explains to the people what these readings mean. This is called the **homily**.



Liturgy of the Word: Creed and Bidding Prayers

People all rise to proclaim the basic belief of the Church. This is called the **Creed**.

After this there is a time to ask God for all the needs of the Church and the World. These are **bidding prayers**.



Liturgy of the Eucharist: Offertory

In the Mass, people bring gifts up to the altar. These are gifts of bread and wine. Usually, there is a gift of money, too. This part is called the **Offertory**.



Liturgy of the Eucharist: Eucharistic Prayer

Eucharist means ‘thanksgiving’. Jesus said a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing over the bread and fish. The priest also asks the Father in heaven to bless the gifts of bread and wine on the altar.



Liturgy of the Eucharist: Consecration

In the Mass, when the priest says the words of Jesus at the Last Supper, the gifts of bread and wine are changed miraculously into Jesus’ body and blood.



Communion Rite: Lord’s Prayer

All rise together to say the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. This is the ‘**Our Father**’ or ‘**Lord’s Prayer**’. We have one Father in heaven and we are all his children.



Communion Rite: Communion

The people are invited to share in this marvellous feast of Jesus’ body and blood. This is food for their souls, to strengthen them as they try to follow Jesus.

Tabernacle reservation

In the Mass, the sacred hosts (of Christ’s body) are gathered and placed in the **tabernacle**. In this special way, Jesus remains present for anyone who wishes to meet him and say a little prayer.



Dismissal

Jesus said goodbye to the crowds and sent them back to their ordinary lives. The priest also dismisses the people with the words:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Activities

1 Write a sentence each to answer the following questions.

- | | |
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| <p>a What is the meaning of the word <i>Eucharist</i>?
A thanksgiving
B blessing
C promise</p> <p>b The first Eucharist was what?
A Pentecost
B Feeding of the Five Thousand
C The Last Supper</p> <p>c The Jewish feast of <i>Passover</i> celebrates ...
A the giving of the Law to Moses at Sinai.
B the entry into the Promised Land.
C freedom from slavery under the Egyptians.</p> <p>d During which part of the Mass are the words of Jesus at the <i>Last Supper</i> repeated?
A penitential rite
B communion
C consecration</p> <p>e Which is true? The Mass
A is Christ's sacrifice at Calvary.
B is a symbol of Christ's sacrifice at Calvary.
C adds to Christ's sacrifice at Calvary.</p> | <p>f The sacrifice of Calvary ...
A replaces all the sacrifices of the OT.
B is a once only perfect sacrifice.
C both of the above</p> <p>g The basic beliefs of the Church are in the ...
A Creed.
B penitential rite.
C Gloria.</p> <p>h Which prayer of the Mass did Jesus teach his disciples to pray?
A Our Father
B bidding prayers
C Hail Mary</p> <p>i What is the meaning of <i>Amen</i>?
A thankyou
B hear us, Lord
C so be it or it is true</p> <p>j At the end of the Mass the priest says ...
A go and make disciples of all peoples.
B go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
C go in love to serve others.</p> |
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2 Design a Mass bookmark. Try to think of symbols to match the main parts of the Mass.

A simple example of how you could start is shown beside.

