

What is on the Sanctuary? The furniture and fittings



TARGET AUDIENCE

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Overview

This Object depicts the different furnishings and element to be found on a sanctuary; each item is explained.

The multimedia element reflects the fact that while the sanctuaries of churches and chapels have similar elements and furnishings, they are not uniform in character. Three different sanctuaries were used: [St Michael's Church](#), Ashburton; [St Francis' Church](#), Melbourne; and the [Academy of Mary Immaculate Chapel](#), Fitzroy. Scrolling over the hotspots visible in any of these three sanctuaries reveals an explanatory sentence on each of the furnishings.

Teacher Background

Teachers are encouraged to review the 'Crafting the Art of Liturgy' section of the DVD Rom *Become One Body One Spirit in Christ* to deepen their understanding of the art, beauty and celebration as well as the roles of the ordained ministry and of the liturgical assembly.

In particular, the following aspects of *Become One Body One Spirit in Christ* provide entry points and context for this Learning Object:

- Within the pathway 'Art in the Liturgy' watch the video 'Liturgical Objects'.

Where appropriate, use this material with the students.

Supporting Content

This text supports the focus of the multimedia element.

ITEM	EXPLANATION
Sanctuary	The sanctuary is the front part of the church from where the Priest stands during Mass. It is usually elevated from the nave, where the congregation sits.
The Altar	The altar is the table where the Priest celebrates the Eucharist and reminds believers that this is a special meal. We bring our gifts of bread and wine to the altar. They become Jesus' Body and Blood.
Candles	Candles are used in Catholic worship to represent the

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Supporting Content

	light of Christ. During Mass, candles may be held on either side of the Priest as he proclaims the Gospel. At least two candles are placed on or near the altar.
Presider's Chair	The Priest celebrating Mass sits on the presidential chair during some parts of the Mass. Every Catholic church has a presider's chair. In a cathedral the chair is called a cathedra. It is for the Bishop or Archbishop.
Tabernacle	The tabernacle is where the Consecrated Hosts, which have not been used during Mass, are kept. There is a red light left on somewhere close by to remind us that Jesus is present in the hosts.
Lectern	During the Mass, the Word of God is read from the lectern. This helps to remind us that what believers are hearing is important and worthy of paying special attention to. The lector is the person who reads the First and Second Readings during Mass. Then the Priest or a Deacon reads the Gospel.
Crucifix	A crucifix, a cross with the figure of Jesus, is always clearly visible during Mass. The crucifix reminds us that Jesus died and rose again to new life.
Statues and Images	Statues or images of Jesus, Mary and the saints are in the church to inspire us try to live like they did.
Credence Table	This is the table where the items that are going to be used for the Mass are stored.
Sanctuary Lamp	The red light near the tabernacle is known as the Sanctuary Lamp. A lit sanctuary Lamp signifies the presence of God in the tabernacle that contains the Eucharist.

For Reflection and Discussion: Ideas for Use

Select one or more of the following activities for students to complete.

- 1 After going through the tour of the Church online, take students on a tour of the parish church, school chapel, Mass centre or cathedral and find all of the things mentioned in the online tour. Take photos of each for display in the classroom, along with a label and explanation.**
- 2 Ask students to describe the three things in the church that impressed them the most and explain why?**
- 3 Print copies of the images taken during the tour and give them to the class. Dependent on the level of the students, invite them to**

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For Reflection and Discussion: Ideas for Use

create cards either for bingo or for snap.

Using the photos taken in your own school's parish Church, create a liturgical bingo or snap game with photos, labels and explanations of each feature.

- 4 **For students to undertake this task, they will need advance notice of the materials required.**

Create a three-dimensional diorama of a Church and create and label objects/furnishings.

- 5 **To assist students in completing this task, screen the multimedia element of *The Last Supper and the Mass* for them.**

Complete a chart by drawing and labelling things Jesus used to celebrate the Last Supper and things in the Church we use to celebrate the Eucharist.

- 6 **Organise a return visit to the parish church, school chapel, Mass centre or cathedral to identify the following:**

- Can you find the ... in our Church/chapel/Mass centre?
- Is it similar or different from the one on the computer? How?

Teacher Professional Development Resources

[Liturgical Objects](#) – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

[Art for the Christian Liturgy in the Middle Ages](#) – The Metropolitan Museum of Art