

## Settings for Mass

We celebrate together



### TARGET AUDIENCE

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#### Overview

This Object introduces students to a variety of settings for the celebration of the Eucharist and an understanding of what constitutes an appropriate place of worship.

The multimedia element depicts 36 settings for Mass; they are a collection of images of cathedrals, parish churches, chapels and schools from across Australian. Clicking on each of the tiles enlarges the image.

#### 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 'Bringing Beauty to the Liturgy'. The content of the video is developed further in the case studies: the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, USA; and the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Hamilton, New Zealand. The case studies can be accessed by clicking on the 'View Case Studies' arrow.

*Where appropriate, use this material with the students.*

#### Supporting Content

*This text supports the focus of the multimedia element.*

The most common place for Catholics to celebrate the Mass is in a church. Churches are built in different shapes, for example, in a cross or round, but always with the altar facing east towards the rising sun.

Mass is celebrated by a Priest, or on special occasions such as Confirmation, the Bishop leads the celebration of Mass. Mass may take place in other settings.

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### Supporting Content

Wherever it is, the celebration will follow the same structure and include music, speech, readings from the scripture, different types of prayer, a homily and various holy ceremonies.

#### Parish Church

A diocese is divided into geographical areas called parishes. The parish church is where most Catholics celebrate the Sunday Mass. Some parishes have more than one church, or Mass centre.

#### Chapel

A chapel is generally associated with a specific place, like a school, college, monastery, convent, military base, hospital or similar institution. It usually looks like a small church.

#### Cathedral

The cathedral is the main church of the diocese. It is also usually the biggest church in the diocese. The word cathedral comes from cathedra which refers to the chair that the Bishop sits on. It is usually in the cathedral that the Bishop confers the Sacrament of Holy Orders on those who are called to become Priests. The Chrism Mass – when the holy oils are blessed – is one occasion when the Bishop and all the Priests of the diocese gather to celebrate the Eucharist in the cathedral church.

#### Other places

Mass can also be celebrated in other places, like sports halls, general purpose rooms, undercover areas or outside. Mass can be celebrated anywhere as long as some preparation has gone into making sure that it can be a prayerful place and one where people can feel close to God.

### For Reflection and Discussion: Ideas for Use

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

- 1 **Facilitate a class discussion on places to celebrate the Eucharist. Record the answers on the board.**  
Brainstorm with the class, the different places where you have participated in the celebration of Mass and share something special about each place, for example, 'the Mass centre is special because it is in the school and anytime we go past it we can remember what happened at Mass there.'
- 2 **Provide the students with blank sheets of paper and crayons or colouring pencils etc. Invite them to draw their favourite place to**

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### For Reflection and Discussion: Ideas for Use

#### celebrate the Eucharist and to provide an explanation.

Draw your favourite place to celebrate Mass and explain why.

- 3 **To assist students in completing this task, ensure they have access to a computer and colour printer.**

Search the internet for photos of people celebrating Mass in different settings and create a collage of them under the heading 'We can celebrate Mass in different places'. Explore the advantages and possible disadvantages of each of those settings.

### Teacher Professional Development Resources

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, ['IV Some General Norms for All Forms of Mass'](#), *The Different Forms of Celebrating Mass*

Canon Law Society of America, ['The Time and Place of the Celebration of the Eucharist'](#), *Code of Canon Law*, Cann. 931-933, 1998