

People and Ministries

We share our gifts



TARGET AUDIENCE

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Overview

This Object looks at the people involved in the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist. It provides, in an informative manner, first-person accounts of the different roles. The content is most suitable for primary school students.

The multimedia element is an interactive slideshow of the nine ministries most likely to be present in a Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. Clicking through the nine 'tiles' reveals a graphic with foundational information.

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 'Liturgical Ministries' watch the videos: 'The Bishop'; 'The Priest'; 'The Deacon'; 'The Liturgical Assembly'; 'Acolytes, Lectors and Readers'; 'Altar Servers'; 'Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion'; and 'Liturgical Musicians'. The content of each video is developed further in the excerpts taken from the essay *Liturgical Roles and Liturgical Ministry* by Msgr. Paul McPartlan. The excerpts can be accessed by clicking on the 'Read More' arrow, or else you can download the essay by clicking on the 'View Essay' button.

Where appropriate, use this material with the students.

Supporting Content

This text supports the focus of the multimedia element.

During the Mass, lots of people help to make the celebration special. You might have even helped before at a parish or school Mass! God made each and every one of us with different gifts that we can use to help make the Mass a special celebration. Some people are good singers, some are good at

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Supporting Content

reading aloud, and others are gifted at arranging and preparing beautiful settings for prayer. Whatever your gift, there is a place for it within the community of the Mass. We will now look at just a few of the gifted people who help to make the Mass a special celebration.

Reader – I proclaim the scripture for the people to listen and think about.

Commentator – I welcome everyone and help people through the celebration by introducing people and different parts of the Mass and guiding everyone through the celebration.

Altar Server – I help the Priest by processing in, holding the books of prayer and helping to prepare the altar.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion – I help the Priest give Communion to the people present and sometimes I also take Communion to the people in the parish who are too sick to come to Mass.

Priest – I lead the celebration of the Mass and pray with you and on your behalf for God's blessing.

Liturgical Musician – I play music and sing to help Mass be a joyful celebration.

Sacristan – I help prepare the church for Mass.

Gift Bearer – I bring the gifts forward on behalf of everyone gathered.

Me – I come to listen, pray, give thanks, sing, respond, stand, sit, learn, grow and try to live like Jesus.

For Reflection and Discussion: Ideas for Use

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

1 **Screen the multimedia element for the class to assist them in completing this activity. Invite the students to form into pairs to answer the following questions:**

- I am the person who brings the Lectionary to the front in the Opening Procession and who reads the First and Second Reading. Who am I?
- I provide short introductions on the parts of the Mass so you can understand it better. Who am I?
- We are boys or girls who help at Mass. We help the Priest at the altar. We light candles, carry the cross, hold the books of prayer and do anything else we are asked to do during the Mass. Who are we?
- We are the people who help the priest give out the blessed bread and wine of Communion. Who are we?
- I wear certain clothes called vestments. I lead everyone in the celebration of Mass. Who am I?

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**For Reflection and Discussion: Ideas for Use**

- We are a group of singers that are in front of the church or up in the balcony. Who are we?
- We are the people who play musical instruments, including the piano, organ, violins, and other instruments. Who are we?
- We are a group of people who have gathered together for a religious service. Who are we?

2 **Invite the students to reflect and share with the class their answers to the following:**

- Have you or anyone in your family or friends ever assisted at Mass? What did you (or they) do?
- Can you think of any other people present at Mass not in this list?

3 **Assist the students in preparing their questions for the interview. Some example questions may be: why do they do this? what value do they see in their work? What contribution do they make? If the interview is to be filmed, the students should be formed into groups to form a production team.**

Interview a lay person who assists at Mass in a special way about their ministry.

Teacher Professional Development Resources

Liturgy and Life, [‘Resources for Liturgical Ministers’](#), 2011

The Liturgical Commission, [Powerful Points for Liturgical Ministers](#), 2007