

Sights and Sounds

What we hear and see at Mass

**TARGET AUDIENCE**

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Overview

This Object portrays what would commonly be seen and heard when attending the Eucharist on Sunday. The content is most suitable for primary school students.

The multimedia element presents the seven 'sights and sounds' developed in the 'Supporting Content'; scrolling over the image produces the audio related to it.

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 'Liturgy as Art' watch the video 'Rediscovering the Art of'. The content of the video is developed further in the excerpts taken from the essay *Presidential Prayers and Practice: Towards An Ars Celebrandi* by Canon Alan Griffiths. 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.
- Within the pathway 'The Chanting of Prayer' watch the same titled video. Further information on the music for the English language Roman Missal, the principles, and the layout and notation of the music can be accessed by clicking on the 'Find Out More: Music For the Missal' button. Additionally, you can listen to some of the chants themselves by clicking on the 'Listen to Sample Mass Chants' button.

Where appropriate, use this material with the students.

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Supporting Content

This text supports the focus of the multimedia element.

Liturgical Musicians

During the Mass we hear liturgical musicians who lead the assembly in hymns, Psalms and Eucharistic responses, like the *Holy, Holy, Holy*. There are many types of music used in the liturgy. During Communion the liturgical musicians lead the people in hymns that help us understand the importance of receiving Christ's Body and Blood. The hymns sung at the beginning and end of the Mass can be fast, slow or solemn during the different times of the liturgical year. These hymns gather the people at the beginning of Mass and then encourage them to go out and live the Good News when Mass has finished. The music shows us the importance of different parts of the Mass and helps us to join in the quiet, reflective, and joyful times in the liturgy.

Sanctuary Bells

Another sound that we might hear in the church is the bells. There are small bells called 'sanctuary bells' that are rung during special parts of the Mass, like the consecration. The altar servers may ring the bells during the Eucharistic Prayer to remind people that this part of the Mass is very important. The bells help to focus us and remind us that something very significant is happening in the liturgy.

Church and Cathedral Bells

In the larger churches, and cathedrals in the cities, there might also be bells in towers above the church building. These bells are rung to call people to worship. They may also be rung at special times of the year to remember or celebrate events.

Pouring the Water and Wine

During the Preparation of the Gifts, the Priest pours the wine into the chalice and adds a few drops of water. The wine represents the divine nature of Jesus Christ, and the water represents the human nature of Jesus Christ. The mixing of the wine and the water signifies the Incarnation of Christ. It also reminds us that when Jesus was on the cross, blood and water poured from his side.

Breaking the Bread

The breaking of the bread is carried out after the Sign of Peace. The Lamb of God is sung or spoken as the Priest breaks the consecrated host in a ceremonial action. This action was established by Jesus through his gesture of breaking the bread at the Last Supper. The faithful receive Communion

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from the one bread, the Bread of Life, Jesus.

Responding

The whole assembly, including the liturgical ministers, join in the responses during the liturgy. At times the Priest speaks and the assembly answers, or everyone joins in prayers such as the 'Our Father'. When we join together to pray and respond we remember that God is among us when we gather.

A Community Gathering

Church is a place where people gather with their friends and family. Before Mass people meet and catch up on what has been happening in their lives. At the beginning of Mass, before the Priest enters, the commentator often welcomes the community and especially any visitors. After the Priest has left the church at the end of the liturgy, people often gather either outside or in another building to stop and talk, share a cup of coffee, and strengthen their sense of belonging to this community.

For Reflection and Discussion: Ideas for Use

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

- 1 **To assist students in completing this task, provide them with some background information on [church bells](#).**
Consider the different uses of bells in the past and today in everyday society. Focus on their use and purpose in Mass. Complete a report including the – Why, Who, What, Where, When and How –in relation to the main church bell and the sanctuary bells.
- 2 **To assist the students in completing this task, provide them with the following resources: a range of familiar hymnals with themed indexes; and a range of CDs of hymns appropriate for Eucharist. Some instrumentals can be found on this [website](#).**
Work in small groups to select appropriate hymns for inclusion in the different parts of the Mass.
- 3 **To assist the students in completing this task, provide them with the following resources: a range of familiar hymnals with themed indexes; and a range of CDs of hymns appropriate for Mass.**
Choose a particular theme for a Eucharistic celebration undertake the same task choosing hymns appropriate for that theme.
- 4 **To assist students in completing this task, ensure they have access to a computer and the internet.**
Create a soundscape of the sounds you hear during the celebration of the Eucharist.

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

- 5 **Invite the students to reflect on the following questions:**
 - Why is it important to include all the senses during worship?
 - Who rings the bells at Church?
 - Why is music important during the celebration of Eucharist?
 - Why is verbal sharing of the stories of life of Christ important?
- 6 **Assist the students in preparing their questions for the interview. If the interview is to be filmed, the students should be formed into groups to form a production team.**
Interview a musician about their ministry. This could be filmed and recorded for a class presentation.

Teacher Professional Development Resources

[There Is More To Sunday Mass Than You Ever Thought!](#) video – The Centre for Liturgy, St Louis University

[As One Voice, Music for the Worshipping Community](#)

Wood, Jane, [Gather Australia](#), 1995