

## The Presences of Christ

Assembly, Minister, Word and Sacrament



### TARGET AUDIENCE

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#### Overview

This Object names the four ways in which Christ is present in the Eucharist: the Scripture, the Priest, the Bread and Wine, the Assembly.

Moving over each of the four hot spots in the multimedia elements reveals an explanatory sentence about each of the ways in which Christ is present.

#### Teacher Background

Teachers are encouraged to review the 'Exploring the Mass' section of the DVD Rom *Become One Body One Spirit in Christ* to deepen their understanding of the scriptural, historical and theological foundations of the Eucharist.

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 'Theological Reflections' watch the video 'Word and Table'. The content of the video is developed further in the excerpts taken from the essay *Living a Eucharistic Life*, both written by Msgr. Kevin Irwin. 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 celebration of the Eucharist, Jesus is present in several important ways. He is present in:

##### **The Priest**

Christ is present in the person of the priest who leads the celebration of Mass, who proclaims the Gospel, preaches and during the Eucharistic Prayer offers praise and thanks to God and does what Jesus did at the last supper. Through the Holy Spirit he brings about the presence of Christ in the elements of bread and wine.

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### Supporting Content

#### The Scriptures

Christ is present in the readings from Scripture proclaimed at Mass. When the Scripture is proclaimed at Mass it is the Lord who speaks to us through those words. The gospel especially is received with special ceremony. All stand and sometimes the presence of Christ in his word is honoured with candles or incense.

#### The Assembled People

Christ is present in the group of people who gather to offer the Mass. Not only did Jesus promise to be with his followers whenever they gathered in his name, but the people who gather at Mass are members of the Church, the Body of Christ, his continuing presence in the world.

#### The Bread and Wine

Christ is present in the elements of bread and wine which become his body and blood. This is the most intense mode of the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. When we eat this Bread and drink from the Cup we enter into communion with his Body and Blood. We share the very life of Jesus himself and open ourselves to living and loving as he did.

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

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

- 1 **Form students into pairs to discuss. Ask them to establish three points of insight for 'Presence' and then compare it to a dictionary definition of 'presence'.**  
Have students discuss the difference between the words 'presence' and 'Presence'.
- 2 **Invite students to reflect on the following:**
  - Why did Jesus choose to remain with us in the Eucharist, using the symbols of bread and wine?
  - Jesus chose bread, wine, and a meal as the means of giving himself to us. Why is a meal a perfect gift from Jesus to us?
  - When you visit your church or chapel do you remember that Christ is present in the tabernacle? When have you felt close to Jesus when you visited a church?
  - Describe the other ways in which Christ is present in the Eucharist.
  - Describe two people who make Jesus seem real to you.

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### Teacher Professional Development Resources

Sheed, Frank J., [‘The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist’](#), *Theology for Beginners*, 1981

Fr Mick, Lawrence E., [‘Finding Jesus in the Eucharist: Four Ways He is Present’](#), *Catholic Update*, 1995