

Explore the Cathedral

The beauty of God's House



TARGET AUDIENCE

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Overview

This Object depicts the different furnishings and element to be found in a cathedral; each item is explained. It provides an opportunity for students to have a 'life-like' experience of a cathedral building if they have not entered one before or if they do not often have the opportunity to go to a cathedral.

The multimedia element is a 360° virtual tour of St Mary's Cathedral, Perth.

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.

ITEM	EXPLANATION
Sanctuary	The sanctuary is the front part of the church where the altar, ambo are located and where the priest sits.
The Nave	The nave is the area of the church where the congregation gathers for worship.
The Apse	The apse is a large semicircular or polygonal recess in a church, arched or with a domed roof,

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Supporting Content

	typically at the eastern end, and usually containing the altar.
The Altar	Jesus sent two of his apostles to prepare a special room for them to share the Passover meal together. Jesus and his apostles shared their meal around a table. The altar represents Christ and is the central object of focus during the Mass.
The Altar Stone	The altar stone is a solid piece of natural stone containing relics. It is consecrated by a bishop and forms an essential part of the altar.
Candles	Candles are used in Catholic worship to represent the 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.
Chalice	The chalice is the cup that holds the wine during Mass. It is made from durable materials, usually precious metals, in the shape of a goblet. The chalice is covered with a veil of the same liturgical colour as the Priest's chasuble.
Paten and Ciborium	The paten is the small flat dish on which the large host rests. The ciborium is similar in shape to the chalice, but has a lid. A plate or shallow bowl may also be used to hold the hosts at Mass. Consecrated hosts are reserved in the tabernacle in a ciborium.
Corporal	The corporal is the square white cloth placed in the centre of the altar at the preparation of the gifts. On it stand the chalice, ciborium and paten.
Banners	Church banners are large sheets of cloth bearing a symbol or message. In the past, they were mainly used in processions, however, in recent years permanent and/or temporary banners are displayed on walls and pillars.
Presider's Chair	The Priest presiding at Mass sits on the presidential chair during some parts of the Mass. Every Catholic church has a presider's chair but a cathedral is different because it also has a special chair for the Bishop or Archbishop. That chair is called a cathedra.

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Tabernacle	The tabernacle is a holy receptacle for Consecrated Hosts, the real presence of Christ, that have not been used during Mass. There is a red light always left on somewhere close by to remind us that Christ is present.
Ambo	Jesus always spoke from the mountainside or from a boat. During the Mass, the Word of God is spoken from the ambo. This helps to remind us that what believers are hearing is important and worthy of paying special attention to.
Lectionary/Gospel Book	The Lectionary is a book containing a collection of scripture readings appointed for Catholic worship on a given day or occasion. In many churches they have a special Book of the Gospels that is carried in the Entrance Procession.
Paschal Candle	The Paschal Candle, or Easter Candle, is a large candle lit during the ceremony of the Fire at the Easter Vigil. It is lit at Mass during the Easter Season, and is also used at baptisms and funerals.
Crucifix	The Mass makes present to us the sacrifice and Death of Christ on the cross. A crucifix, a cross bearing the figure of Jesus, is always clearly visible during Mass.
Stained Glass Windows	Stained glass windows are usually large ornate windows made from different colours of glass and cast iron. They usually represent Jesus, saints or scenes from the Bible or else they are ornate patterns.
Statues and Images	Statues or images of Jesus, Mary and the saints are in the church to inspire us to lead our Christian life as fully as possible.
Incense	When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, one of the special gifts brought to him was incense. It was a special gift to honour a King. Believers use incense at special Masses before the Gospel to help us remember that believers are listening to God's Word from a special Book or Lectionary. Other times incense can be used is during the entrance procession, the Gospel procession, the preparation of the Gifts, and the consecration.

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Votive Candles	It is a custom in many churches for people to light a candle in a stand designed for the purpose and then to say a prayer, perhaps for a particular intention. People usually are asked to make a small financial offering towards the cost of the candles. A lit candle can be helpful to us in entering a prayerful state of mind.
Baptismal Font	Baptismal fonts come in various styles, but all contain a bowl or bath in which water is placed. Baptism can take place either by immersion or by pouring of the blessed water over the head of the person to be baptised. The baptismal font can be either at the rear or the front of the church.
Holy Water Font	When you enter a Catholic church you will find a holy water font, often attached to a wall. In some churches it might be a simple bowl or basin. When people enter a church they dip their fingers into the holy water and make the sign of the cross with it. A new supply of holy water is blessed each year at the Easter Vigil.
Reconciliation Chapel	A Reconciliation Chapel or room is a small, enclosed booth used in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Sometimes confessionals are built into the church wall and have separate doors, while others are freestanding with curtains to separate, or are constructed of glass. This enables the penitent to either celebrate the Sacrament anonymously or face-to-face with the Priest.
Pews	Originally, the Early Christians stood for worship. The pew, a long, backed bench upon which the people sit, was an innovation of western Christianity and appeared in the 19 th Century.
Stations of the Cross	The Stations of the Cross represent the final hours of Christ's life on earth, his Passion. The object of the Stations is to help the faithful make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer through meditating upon the chief scenes of Christ's suffering.
Bread and wine	The bread and wine represent the Body and

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	Blood of Christ. Catholics celebrate Mass in accordance with the instructions received in the New Testament. At The Last Supper, Jesus gave his disciples bread saying 'This is my Body', and wine saying, 'This is my Blood'.
Foyer/Porch/Narthex	The foyer/porch/narthex is the entry point to the church. It is located at the far end of the nave to the main altar. In new Church buildings it is often a large gathering space that is referred to as a narthex.

Supporting Content

For Reflection and Discussion: Ideas for Use

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

- 1 **Organise to tour the school chapel, the local parish church or the cathedral. Test the students on their ability to identify various parts of the church building and a variety of liturgical objects used in the celebration of the Mass. Use a matching exercise of object (e.g. foyer) and descriptor (e.g. the entry point to the church).**
- 2 **Ask students to describe the three things in the church that impressed them the most and explain why?**
- 3 **Invite the students to undertake an internet search for liturgical objects, furniture, and liturgical ministers. Instruct them to print out the images for their re-creation.**
 - Go online and search for diverse representations of tabernacles, lecterns, altars, fonts etc.
 - Additionally, search for diverse representations of ordained and liturgical ministers and gathered assemblies.
 - Use these representations to recreate the scene within a church, particularly at the time of the celebration of Mass.

Teacher Professional Development Resources

[St Mary's Cathedral, Perth: Conservation and Completion Appeal](#)

Organ Historical Trust of Australia, [St Mary's Cathedral](#)