

Understanding the Mass

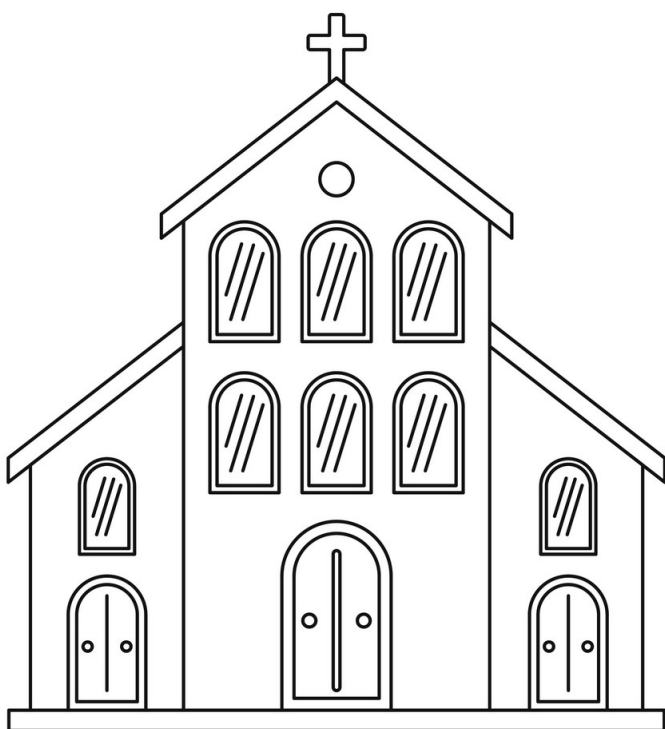
The Church

Each week, we are explaining the different parts of the Mass - what is in the church, what we use in the Mass, and why (and how) we celebrate Mass the way we do.

*Today our topic is **The Church**.*

When Jesus chose the twelve apostles from his disciples (followers), he said to Saint Peter: "You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church." (Mt 16:18)

The Church is the people of God - all of us who have been baptised in the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



The church is also the physical building where we gather together with our community: with other Catholics who have answered God's call to follow Him.

To a lot of people, a church is only a building people go in and out of. But to go to church is to go where Jesus Himself awaits us (in Holy Communion), and to go out of church means to take Jesus (in our hearts) to everyone that we meet.

Churches are filled with beautiful signs and symbols that help us pray, and help us feel the presence of God.

There are Catholic churches all over the world. They may look a bit different, but there are certain things inside each and every one. We are going to explore some of those in the coming weeks together.

True or false? Circle what you think!

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|---|------|-------|
| The name "Peter" means "rock". | TRUE | FALSE |
| The word "parish" comes from Ancient Egyptian. | TRUE | FALSE |
| One in twelve people in Britain is Catholic. | TRUE | FALSE |
| There are more than 1,000 Catholic churches in England. | TRUE | FALSE |