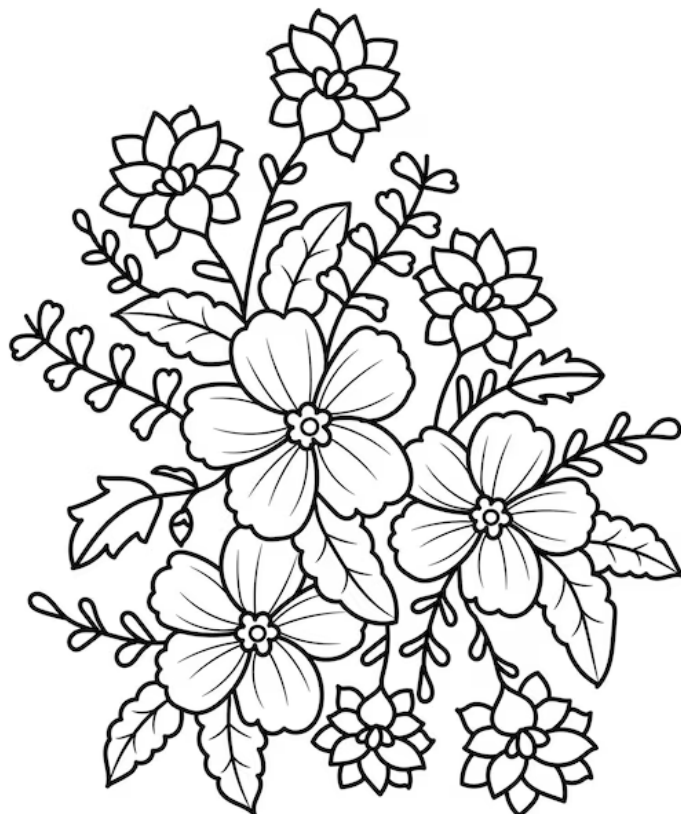


Understanding the Mass Flowers

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 **Flowers**.*

When you enter the church, you may see flowers or plants placed in front of the altar, near the tabernacle, or in the Lady Chapel (if there is one in your church).



Most of us do not have flowers at home every day. We use them for special holidays, and we give them to people as gifts. The flowers in our church are a gift from us to God, a way of thanking Him for His love for us, and a reminder of the gift of life God has given to us.

Saint Francis Borgia, a Spanish Jesuit priest, wrote that “flowers on the altar signify that the blossoms of grace, prayer and virtue unfold in the supernatural light and in the heavenly warmth which radiates from the sun of the Eucharistic Sacrifice.” What he meant was that the flowers we use at church are a symbol of our faith, and our love for God, as much as a sign of God’s love for us!

Flowers are not used in the church during Lent, except on **Laetare Sunday** (or *Rejoicing Sunday*, the Fourth Sunday of Lent) and special feast days. During this time, the absence of flowers helps us to remember that we are in a special time of prayer and preparation for Easter.

1. What are your favourite flowers? _____
2. Can you see flowers in your church? Where are they? _____
3. Can you see plants in your church? Where are they? _____