

Understanding the Mass

The Ambo

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 **Ambo**.*

The **ambo** - also called the lectern or the pulpit - is a large stand near the front of the church. The word comes from the Ancient Greek word *ambon* ("rim").

The other names for the ambo also have very old origins.

The word **lectern** comes from the Latin word *legere* ("to read"), and the word **pulpit** comes from the Latin word *pulpitum* ("scaffold" or "platform").

The ambo is often placed high in the church, at the top of some steps, so that everyone can see the person who stands at it.

The ambo is as holy a place as the altar, for it is the place from which God's Word is proclaimed, and is the "table of God's word".

Our readers stand at the ambo to welcome everyone before Mass begins.

During the Liturgy of the Word, they also read the readings from the Old Testament, the Psalms and the New Testament.

The priest - or the deacon - stands at the ambo to proclaim the Gospel, and the priest stands at the ambo to share the Homily.

And our readers also stand at the ambo to lead the Bidding Prayers, which we pray together as a parish family.

True or false? Circle what you think!

The First Reading is always from the Old Testament.

TRUE FALSE

We sit down while the priest proclaims the Gospel.

TRUE FALSE

Being a reader is a special way of praying during Mass.

TRUE FALSE

