

Understanding the Mass

Entrance Procession

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 **Entrance Procession**.*

The Opening Rite of the Mass begins with the entry, or **Entrance Procession**, which is a sign of us coming together to celebrate the Mass. That is why you will often see the entrance procession being led by a crucifix, because it is Jesus who calls us together. It is Jesus who leads us as His people in the act of worship and sacrifice that is the Mass.

In some churches, the entrance procession will begin with the ringing of a bell, which is a sign that Mass is starting. Everyone in the congregation (this is, all of us), will rise, or stand up. In everyday life, we rise to honour someone important, to express readiness for action, or when we are excited. At Mass, we rise for the entrance procession because we are honouring Jesus, and showing our eagerness to celebrate the Mass.

If there is a choir, we will also join in singing the entrance hymn - this is another way for us to join together (as we are singing together) and prepare ourselves to celebrate Mass.

The altar servers, deacon and priest are all part of the entrance procession because during the Mass they will act on behalf of us all.

You may see the altar servers carrying a crucifix, candles, or a strange silver object which is called a thurible (we will learn more about all these things soon).



If there is a deacon, sometimes they will carry the Gospel in the procession as a sign that it is through His words that Jesus calls us.

Everyone who is part of the entrance procession - including the priest - will bow to the altar on arrival as a sign of reverence. If the tabernacle is directly behind the altar, they will also genuflect. At the end of the procession in, the priest will kiss the altar. He does this as an act of reverence, because the altar is holy.

Who walked in your entrance procession at Mass today? _____