

Understanding the Mass Credence Table

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 **Credence table**.*

Have you ever noticed a small table that is near the altar, which holds items that the altar servers or the priest move to and from the altar throughout the Mass?

This is the **Credence Table**.

The word **credence** comes from the Latin *credere* (“believing”).

The credence table is used to hold the sacred vessels, and other objects for the Mass that are kept on this table until they are needed. It is covered with a white linen cloth, and is always on the right hand side of the altar from the position in which the priest stands whilst at the altar - so you will see it on your left.

Items kept on the credence table include:

- The Missal
- Linens
- The sacred vessels
- Cruets containing water and wine
- The lavabo bowl



The **sacred vessels** are the items that are used to hold the bread and the wine when they become the Body and Blood of Jesus.

The **cruets** are the containers holding water and wine that are presented to the priest during the offertory. They are made of glass, or sometimes of metal.

We will learn more about the sacred vessels, the cruets and the lavabo bowl in the coming weeks.

Can you see the credence table from where you are sitting at Mass today? _____

What items can you see on the credence table right now? _____