Understanding the Mass
The Offertory

*Each week, we are explaining a different part of the Mass - the items that are used, the parts of the church, and the roles of the people who help us celebrate Mass. This week, our topic is **The Offertory**.*

The **Offertory** - from the Latin *offerre* ("offered" or "given") - is the part of the Mass where we bring our offerings to God: the bread and wine that will become the Body and Blood of Jesus, and the money that has been given during the Collection.

The bread is made by humans from natural products. The bread that we use in Mass - which is also called "hosts" - is flat, as it contains only flour and water. It reminds us of the bread eaten by the Jews in Egypt at the first Passover, and by Jesus with His apostles at the Last Supper.

The wine used in Mass must be made from grapes, to be like the wine that was drunk at the first Passover.

The bread is used as an offering of our daily work, of all the ordinary things we do to help others. Wine is a bit special: it represents the happiness, the achievements, all the joyful things we want to offer to Jesus.

Both the bread and wine are the symbols of the ordinary and extraordinary things about our lives that we want to offer to God. These gift of ourselves and all that we do to help others, God transforms into something beautiful. In return, we receive God's love and grace to help us grow close to Hm and to experience inner peace.

If there is singing at Mass, there will normally be a hymn that is sung during the Offertory. Most of the time, the hymn will refer to the gifts that are being brought to the altar, and the gift of ourselves that we are making to God.

True or false? Circle what you think!

The bread we use in Mass is also called "hosts"	TRUE	FALSE
We use loaves of bread at Mass	TRUE	FALSE
The wine we use in Mass must be made from grapes	TRUE	FALSE

Sources: *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, by Edward Sri (2021), *Our Parish Church*, Rev Jude Winkler (1993); Diocese of Westminster *Being an Extraordinary Minister for Holy Communion* (2024); *Exploring the Mass*, by Cardinal Vincent Nichols (2017); *Celebrating the Mass*, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales (2005)