

Understanding the Mass Mixing the Water and Wine

*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 **Mixing the Water and Wine**.*

As the priest blesses and gives thanks to God for His gifts of bread and wine, there is another moment in the Mass that happens quietly, and which you may not have noticed before. This is the **Mixing of the Water and Wine**.



This moment takes place after the priest has blessed God for the bread, and before he blesses God for the wine that we are offering in the Mass.

There is a special prayer that the priest prays quietly as he mixes the water and wine together:

By the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled Himself to share in our humanity.

In the ancient world, and in Jewish religious practices, water was added to wine before drinking. This tradition was continued in the celebration of the Mass; it also represents the mystery of God becoming man in the person of Jesus: the wine symbolises Christ's divinity (that He is truly God) and the water symbolises our humanity (that we are only human).

When Jesus died on the Cross to save us from our sins, His human and divine natures gave themselves out of love for us. This love was shown when the soldier pierced the body of Jesus after He died, and water and blood gushed from His side. And they are symbolised in the Mass in the chalice filled with wine, to which the priest adds a little water.

Find these words: Jesus, side, divinity, symbol, water, Jewish, humanity, wine, humanity, humble, cross

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