



# Church Entrance



As you enter the door of our church you will see the words 'Adore Te Devote, Latens Deitas'.

In English we would say,  
'Devoutly I adore Thee O God'.

# Holy Water Fonts.



On either side of the doors before you enter the Church, there is a 'Holy Water Font'. Catholics bless themselves before entering the Church with this water, which has been blessed by a priest - this is a reminder to them of their Baptism.

They make the 'Sign of the Cross', a prayer to the Holy Trinity, God the Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. Tis is the Mystery of our faith... Three Persons in One God.

# The Sanctuary



As you enter the Church the first thing you will see, in front of you is what we call 'The Sanctuary'.

There are many Sacred things in the Sanctuary that are symbols and are important in Worship. The Altar takes central place, an altar usually is a place of sacrifice and for us, as Catholics, we celebrate the Sacrifice of Jesus' Life and Death every time the priest celebrates Mass.

At Mass we celebrate the last Supper, where Jesus offered Himself and told us that when we remember Him in this way, He will be there with us again, completely in His Body and Blood. This is the Mystery of our Faith and cannot be explained completely by words.

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# The Paschal Candle.



As you look down the Church from the Sanctuary, to the left side you will see a large candle, this is called

'The Paschal Candle'. The Paschal candle is a symbol of Christ as The Light of the World.

Each year during the 'Paschal time', the three days from Christ's death on Good Friday until His Rising from the dead on Easter Sunday, The Church renews the Paschal candle for use during the liturgical year. At the beautiful ceremony of the Easter Vigil the priest, etches into the candle some symbols;

1. The Symbols  $\Omega$  = Alpha, meaning beginning and  $\Omega$  = Omega meaning end, this reminds us that Christ, is the beginning and end of all time.
2. The priest also inserts five pieces of incense into the candle, as a reminder of the five wounds that Christ received during His Crucifixion, two nails in His Hands and Feet and a soldier pierced his heart with a lance - this is to remind us of Christ's Great Love for us.

# The Lectern



On the left of the Sanctuary there is The Lectern.

This is where  
**THE WORD OF GOD**  
is proclaimed.

We believe that it is God Who is speaking to us; that He is present in His Word .

We try to take a message from the readings to help us to live our lives in a better way.

It is also from this Lectern that the Priest or Deacon explains The Readings to us in a 'Homily' on a Sunday.

# The Tabernacle



To the right side of the Sanctuary is The Tabernacle, this is very important to Catholics, as they believe that Jesus Christ is PRESENT here, in the Form of Bread which has been Consecrated at Mass, by a priest. You should also see a long chain coming from the ceiling hanging in front of the Tabernacle. We call this the 'Sanctuary Light' and it burns constantly as a mark of respect to the presence of Christ in the Tabernacle.

# Baptismal Font

On the left of the Sanctuary is the Baptismal Font. This is where people are Baptized. Babies, children and even adults hold their heads over the font and there is water inside. The priest or deacon pours water over the person's head saying the words 'I baptize you in the Name of the Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit'.





# The candelabra



To the left of the Sanctuary, there is a  
Candelabra.

This is where people can light a candle as a symbol of  
prayer **IF THEY WISH.**

Some people often light a candle for someone or  
something they wish to pray for in particular.

# The Stations of The Cross



As you walk around the Church you will see, statues of Christ and the people He met as He walked with His Cross on the way to Calvary, to His Death.

This is traditionally called 'The Stations of The Cross'. There are 14 Stations of the Cross, sometimes fifteen as the Resurrection has been added in recent years.

These 'Stations' are around the walls in the Church. Catholics sometimes walk around them to pray to Christ as a reminder of His Great Love for them.

# Sacrament Room



At the side of the Church there is a room with the name, 'Confessional' on the door. This is a room where the sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated.

There are two rooms inside, one for the person who wishes to receive the Sacrament and one for the Priest who administers the Sacrament.

## Inside The Room .



This is the room inside where the persons receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This Sacrament is where Catholics believe they are reconciled with God and His Love, which is a continual process throughout our lives.

# Statues

Around the walls of the Church there are some statues of Holy men and women who are considered saints by the Church.

Catholics do not worship statues but are inspired by their lives and encouraged to live their own lives in a holy way.



# Before you leave Our Church.

Before you leave our Church, you may wish to say your own prayer or here is a suggested prayer to the Sacred Heart.

'Father, we rejoice in the gifts of love we  
have received from the heart of  
Jesus Your Son.

Open our hearts to share His Life and  
continue to bless us with His Love.

Amen.'