

## The Sacred Vessels

- 1) **Ciborium** A large cup of precious metal with a cover of the same material that contains the hosts consecrated for distribution to the faithful in Holy Communion.
- 2) **Chalice** The cup containing the wine that has been consecrated
- 3) **Corporal** A square white linen cloth on which stands the Ciborium and Chalice or Paten
- 4) **Burse** A flat, square container of cloth, the same colour as the vestments in which the corporal is carried to and from the altar. It is placed over the veil on top of the chalice.
- 5) **Pall** A square board covered with linen to cover the Chalice
- 6) **Priest Wafer** A larger host that the priest raises and breaks at the Consecration
- 7) **Paten** A thin metal plate on that holds the Sacred Host.
- 8) **Purificator** A white linen cloth used to purify and then cover the Ciborium and Chalice

## The meaning of some of the things in Church

This is a list of some of the things you see in Church with a brief explanation of their meaning and use.

**Acolytes (Candlesticks)** – Generally carried together by two servers. They have a base so that they can be free standing.

**Aisle** – The passage between the nave, which is where the congregation sits.

**Alb** – A white, full length gown with sleeves that is worn by a priest, deacons and altar servers in Church.

**Altar** – The stone or wooden table where the most important part of the Service takes place. The altar is generally covered with a long, white cloth.

**Ambo** – The place where the readings take place that is very often called a Lectern. A pulpit is for the same purpose but is larger and is sometimes outside the Sanctuary (where the Altar is).

**Amice** – This is the first vestment a priest puts on when vesting for a Service. It is an oblong cloth that is placed over the shoulders once it has touched the priest's head. It is worn under the Alb. It is required when the priest is not wearing a cassock.

**Boat** – Container for Incense.

**Cassock** – Full length gown with sleeves worn by a priest. The most common colour is black. Red is also common. Bishops' cassocks are purple, Cardinals' are scarlet and the Pope's is white.

**Chair** – The priest has a special chair to signify that he is the leader of the congregation. His chair is either placed behind or to one side of the Altar. It is one of three most important places in the celebration of the Service: the others are the Ambo and Altar.

**Chalice Veil** – A cloth which covers the Chalice when on the Credence Table.

**Chasuble** – The priest's outermost garment.

**Cincture** – This is a 12 – 14 foot tasselled cord tied around the alb at the waist, signifying chastity. It is meant to remind the priest of the discipline required to maintain his vows.

**Credence Table** – A side table which is placed things such as the water cruet, towels, chalices, etc....

**Cross-bearer** – The server who carries the processional cross at the beginning and end of the service.

**Finger towel (or Lavabo)** – The towel which the priest dries his finger with before and after Holy Communion

**Stole** – This is a long, narrow strip that symbolises the spiritual power and dignity that priests should possess. It is this garment that reminds us of the priests' special role as a mediator between us and God, especially in the role he plays as the celebrant and consecrator of the Eucharist. Priests wear the stole around their necks with both ends hanging down in front. A deacon wears a stole across his left shoulder and across his body at a diagonal

**Surplice** – loose white robe worn by Priests

**Thurible (or Incense Pot)** – The Thurible will be required during the Service, especially at the beginning of the Service when incensing the Altar, prior to the Reading of the Gospel, and at the Consecration.

### The Colours of Chasubles

Season	Colour of Chasuble
Ash Wednesday, Lent & Advent	Purple
Christmas & Epiphany	White or Gold
Palm Sunday & Good Friday	Red
Easter Sunday up to Ascension	White or Gold
Pentecost	Red
Trinity Sunday	White or Gold
Sundays in Ordinary Time	Green

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