The basic structure of the Mass



The celebration of the Eucharist has four parts: a beginning and an end and 2 central pillars (those marked \* are included according to the nature of the feast or solemnity)

***1. Introductory Rites***

* **Sign of the cross** (In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit)
* **Penitential Rite** (When we say sorry to God)
* **[Gloria]** (A song of praise used on feast days)\*

***2. Liturgy of the Word***

* **1st reading** (From the Old or New Testament)
* **Responsorial Psalm** (A Psalm from the Old Testament)
* **[Second reading]** (From the New Testament)
* **Gospel Acclamation** (To prepare for the Gospel)
* **Gospel Reading** (From St Matthew, St Mark, St Luke or St John)
* **Homily** (A short address by the bishop, priest or deacon)
* [**Creed] (**A statement of what we believe)
* **Prayer of the Faithful** (Bringing our prayers for different needs before God)



***3. Liturgy of the Eucharist***

* **Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts** (The bread and wine)
	+ - **Eucharistic Prayer** (Including the words of Jesus and prayer of Consecration)
* **Lord's Prayer** (The Our Father)
* **Sign of Peace** (Offering a gesture of peace to others)
* **Breaking of the Bread**
* **Communion** (Distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ)

***4. Concluding Rite***

* **Blessing**
* **Dismissal** (sending out)

*Deacon or Priest***: Go forth, the Mass is ended;** Or, **Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord;** Or, **Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life;** Or simply, **Go in peace.**

*All:* **Thanks be to God!**

*For a very simple version of this with explanation and images for children, see YouCat for Kids p122-125*



For more information about the structure of the Mass see
Q & A GUIDELINES FOR CELEBRATING SCHOOL MASSES <https://education.rcdow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Mass-Guidelines.pdf>