# **Liturgical Objects at Mass: Glossary**

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| **OBJECT** | **DEFINITION** |
| Altar | A table on which the sacrifice of the Mass is offered. It is the centre of importance in the place where the Mass is celebrated. Also called: The Table of the Lord. |
| Ambo | The place where the Scriptures are proclaimed. Also called Lectern. Avoid: Pulpit. |
| Altar bread/wine and Host/Precious Blood | The altar bread is the unconsecrated host before Mass; it is just bread. The Host is the consecrated bread – it is the Body of Christ.  The altar wine is the unconsecrated wine before Mass; it is just wine. The Precious Blood is the consecrated wine, the Body of Christ. |
| Cathedra | The Archbishop’s throne. Celebrant's Chair: The place where the celebrant sits. It expresses his office of presiding over the assembly and of leading the prayer of those present. AVOID: The use of the word THRONE. |
| Processional Cross | The cross carried in the processions. Bread and Wine: The elements used in the celebration of Eucharist (unleavened bread and natural pure wine). NOTE: After the Eucharistic Prayer the bread and wine is referred to as: the consecrated bread and wine or the body and blood of Christ. |
| Cruets | The containers/vessels holding the water and wine. Tabernacle: Place in the church where the Eucharist or sacred species is reserved. |
| Chalice | The cup used to hold the wine. |
| Paten | The plate used to hold the bread that will be consecrated during the Eucharistic prayer. |
| Ciborium | A vessel used to hold the consecrated bread for the distribution of communion. |
| Cathedral | The major church in an archdiocese or diocese. It is the seat of the local Ordinary. |
| Lectionary | The book that contains all the readings from the Scriptures for use in the celebration of the liturgy. |
| Sacramentary | The book used by the celebrant, containing all the prayers for the liturgy of the Mass. |
| Book of Gospels | The book which contains the Gospel texts, from which the priests or deacon proclaims the Gospel of the day. |
| Purificator | The linen cloth used to wipe the chalice after the celebration of Mass. |
| Corporal | The square white cloth, now usually somewhat smaller than the breadth of the alter, upon which the chalice and paten, and also the ciborium containing smaller hosts for Holy Communion are placed during the celebration of Mass. |
| Tabernacle | The fixed lock box in which the Body of Christ is reserved after Mass. We genuflect to the tabernacle, not the altar. |
| Water and Holy Water | Holy water has been blessed and is a reminder of our Baptism. We make the sign of the cross with it. Ordinary water has not been blessed. It can be brought up to Mass with the wine. |
| Lavabo | For the washing of the hands of a priest after the distribution of Holy Communion. |

For more information about liturgical objects including those which are not mentioned here see   
Q & A GUIDELINES FOR CELEBRATING SCHOOL MASSES <https://education.rcdow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Mass-Guidelines.pdf>