

## *Vestments and Sacred Vessels used at Mass*

### **Amice**

This is a rectangular piece of cloth with two long ribbons attached to the top corners. The priest puts it over his shoulders, tucking it in around the neck to hide his cassock and collar. It is worn whenever the alb does not completely cover the ordinary clothing at the neck (GI 297). It is then tied around the waist. It symbolises a helmet of salvation and a sign of resistance against temptation.

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### **Alb**

This long, white, vestment reaching to the ankles and is worn when celebrating Mass. Its name comes from the Latin 'albus' meaning 'white.' This garment symbolises purity of heart.



### **Cincture**

This is a long cord used for fastening some albs at the waist. It is worn over the alb by the priest at Mass. It is a symbol of chastity. It is usually white in colour.



### **Stole**

A stole is a long cloth, often ornately decorated, of the same colour and style as the chasuble. A stole traditionally stands for the power of the priesthood and symbolises obedience. The priest wears it around the neck, letting it hang down the front. A deacon wears it over his right shoulder and fastened at his left side like a sash.



### **Chasuble**

The chasuble is the sleeveless outer vestment, slipped over the head, hanging down from the shoulders and covering the stole and alb. It is the proper Mass vestment of the priest and its colour varies according to the feast. It is worn as a mantle over his shoulders symbolising the yoke of Christ and signifies charity.



### **Paten**

This is a saucer-like dish that usually sits on top of the chalice. It holds the bread that becomes the body of Christ.



### **Chalice**

This large cup is used at Mass to hold the wine that becomes the blood of Christ



### **Ciborium**

This is a cup-like vessel with a lid. It contains the hosts that will be used for Communion. It is also used to reserve the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.



### **Monstrance**

This is a large ornate vessel used to hold the Blessed Sacrament for Benediction and Eucharistic processions.



### **Lunette**

A thin, circular receptacle, having a glass face that holds the Consecrated Host used at Benediction.

### **Pyx**

A metal case in which the lunette is kept in the tabernacle. It can be a pocket watch-shaped case in which Communion is brought to the sick and the housebound.



### **Pall**

This is a stiff square white cover that is placed over the chalice.



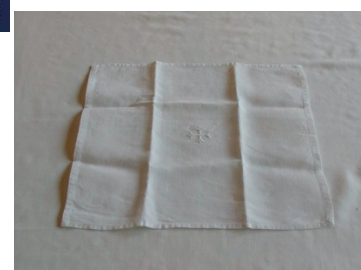
### **Purificator**

A folded piece of linen used to purify or cleanse the chalice. It is put on directly over the chalice before Mass



### **Corporal**

This comes from the Latin '*corpus*' meaning a '*body*'. It is a square of linen cloth on which the paten containing the sacred host and the chalice are placed at Mass



### **Thurible**

This is used to contain the burning charcoal on which incense is put. Incense has always been used since early times to do honour to people and things. For this reason we incense the altar, Book of the Gospels, bread and wine, and the people at Mass



### **Incense Boat**

So called because it is in the shape of a boat, and is used to hold the incense.



# Guidelines for Altar Servers

## Ashbourne Donaghmore Parish

### Prayer Before Serving

God our Father,  
You have given us the privilege of  
serving at Your altar.

Help us to be reverent and attentive in  
Your house.

May we always think of what we are  
doing and saying.

May we listen carefully to Your Word,  
And so, may we give glory to You and  
be an example to others.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen

### Prayer After Serving

We thank You Lord, for giving us the  
privilege of serving You and Your people.  
Be with us now as we return to our home.  
May what we have learned from you this  
day, make us loving and kind at home, at  
school and play.  
And may we do only the things that please  
You.

Amen

### Altar Servers

1. Be present half an hour before the start of Mass.
2. Make sure that your appearance is neat and respectful. Hair should be tied up and no make-up or nail varnish should be worn.
3. Appropriate footwear should be worn.
4. Listen to instructions of the priest and sacristan at all times.
5. When you are serving Mass, you are still taking part in the Mass:
  - Join in with the prayers and responses
  - Listen to the readings
  - No talking or laughing
  - Stand upright with both feet firmly on the floor.

### Before Mass

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- a) Change into Server's Alb.
- b) Remove used candles from the shrines and refill with new candles if needed.
- c) On Sundays check baskets are out on every second seat.
- d) Fill cruets (wine & water) and place on Credence Table.
- e) Set up Offertory Table.
- f) Put out chalice and Ciboria on Altar if asked.
- g) Five minutes before Mass, light the candles.

## **Formation of Processions**

Thurifer

Acolyte 1

Cross

Acolyte 2

Book Bearer

Other Servers

Priest

## **When to ring the bell?**

The bell is rung on four occasions:

- 1) When the priest holds his hands over the gifts.
- 2) When the priest holds up the host.
- 3) When the priest holds up the chalice.
- 4) When the Celebrant drinks from the chalice. Also at this time, the altar servers move to the front of the sanctuary steps to receive Holy Communion.

After communion the priest returns the ciboria to the Tabernacle and genuflects. Then the server brings up the cruet of water and pours it into the chalice.

At the end of Mass, when the Priest says, "Let us bow our heads and pray for God's blessing" or "The Lord be with you"; the Altar Servers move to the front for the final procession to the sacristy.

## **Use of Incense**

*(Incense will always be lit by the Sacristan!)*

At a parish Solemn Mass, incense is used three times by the priest.

- First, at the beginning of Mass. The priest will incense the altar and the processional cross.
- Second, before the Gospel is read from the Book of the Gospel, the Word of God will be incensed.
- Third, after the gifts of bread and wine have been offered on the altar, but before the priest washes his hands, he will incense the gifts.

Each of these three times, the incense and boat are brought to the priest. The Altar Server hands to boat to the priest, opens the thurible and the priest will put the incense into the thurible and bless it. The server closes the thurible, hands it to the priest and steps back. For the Gospel the server will go to the priest at the chair and then when the priest has put incense into the thurible, the server will go to the ambo and wait for the priest to take it off the server. The server should wait swinging the thurible until the Gospel is finished and then bring it into the sacristy.

### **After Mass**

- 1) Blow out the candles on the altar.
- 2) Wash and dry the cruets and replace in their proper place.
- 3) Bring chalices and Ciboria from the Credence Table to the Sacristy.
- 4) Collect all leaflets from the seats and place neatly on tables at the doors, or in the case of the 12.30pm Mass, place in the bin.
- 5) Return your alb to the cupboard in the sacristy and your cross and cincture to the drawer. Place your footwear in their designated area.

