

A Glossary of Roman Catholic Terms

Altar - table on which bread and wine are consecrated to God altar servers, the children who help during Mass.

Celibacy - choosing to remain single and not have sexual relationships.

Communion - sharing of Christ's body and blood in the form of bread and wine to remember Jesus' death.

Confession - admitting one's sins for forgiveness.

Consecration - when the bread and wine are ritually offered to God during Catholic Mass.

Eucharist - Holy Communion; literally means 'thanksgiving'.

Genuflect - to kneel on one knee.

Holy Water - water set apart for religious purposes.

Homily - talk explaining the passage from the Bible.

Host - bread consecrated in the Eucharist.

Mass - ritual of chants, readings, prayers and other ceremonies used in the celebration of the Eucharist in the Catholic church.

Ordained - set apart to be a Priest, Pastor or Minister, Bishop

or Deacon. Priest - ordained Minister of Roman Catholic,

Anglican or Orthodox church.

Rosary of the Virgin Mary - string of beads used to say Our Father's, Hail Mary's and Glory Be's, whilst meditating on the main events of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Sacrament - ceremony that Christians believe brings God's blessing to those who share in it. Specifically, these are baptism and communion, and for Roman Catholic and Eastern churches also penance, confirmation, holy orders (being a Priest or Deacon), marriage and Sacrament of the Sick.

Sanctity - holiness.

Transubstantiation - the belief that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ, with only the appearances of bread and wine remaining.

Vestments - clothes worn by the clergy during sacred duties.