

# *Vestments and Sacred Vessels used at Mass*

## **Amice (optional)**

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. Worn by priest, deacon and in many places by the altar servers.



## **Cincture (optional)**

This is a long cord used for fastening some albs at the waist. It is worn over the alb by those who wear an alb. 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 is also a pocket watch-shaped case  
in which Communion is brought to the sick and the housebound.



### **Pall (optional)**

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 usually placed on the altar.



### **Corporal**

This comes from the Latin ‘*corpus*’ meaning a ‘body’.  
It is a square of linen cloth on which the vessels containing the hosts 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.

