

# The Liturgy of the Eucharist

In this part of the Mass we begin to prepare for the meal, just as Jesus asked his disciples to get ready for their Last Supper which he was going to eat with them before he was to die on the cross.

What we do here is "in memory" of what Jesus did and we are really present there with him as he gave his life for us.

To draw attention to one aspect of the Eucharist, you may like to focus on the Table of the Lord and link it to what happens at home when you all have a meal together or when you have friends round for a meal.

- *How do you prepare for a meal at home?*
- *Who sets the table? What is needed?*

*Perhaps you can say the Grace before meals when you come to the table to share your food and the Grace after meals when you are finished eating. The children may have a special one which they pray at school.*

The altar in Church is also known as the Table of the Lord where we gather round to give thanks, to do what Jesus did in memory of him and to eat. It needs to be set with a white cloth and then a special smaller cloth, called a **corporal**, is put on in the middle to catch any crumbs that may fall when the bread is broken.



A **ciborium** is used to hold the hosts and a **chalice** to contain the wine. There are candles at each side of the altar, or on the altar, and a book, called the **Missal**, from which the priest can read the prayers.

