

The first part of Mass

On the Sanctuary



The priest kisses the altar to show that it is a special place and because it is where Jesus will become present in the form of bread and wine later on during Mass.

It might be good to think about how you treat special people and places in your life to help your children understand the respect and reverence we have for what is in church.

- *Who do we kiss? Why do we kiss some people and not others? What are we really saying when we give someone a kiss?*
- *Do we have somewhere that is special to us? A corner in our bedroom; a place where we like to curl up and read; or a favourite chair where we can snuggle up and watch TV; or is it a part of the garden that we like to go to at certain times?*
- *What is it that makes those places so special to us?*
- *Who or what does it make us think of?*

Can you link some of your ideas about special people and places with the priest kissing the altar and the Book of the Gospels? Encourage your child/children to watch out for the priest doing these actions.