



## GATHERING

Outside a church on Sunday people of different ages and different races are arriving in cars, on foot, perhaps off a bus.

Inside the church, the welcomers greet people and offer them hymn books or mass books. Other people will be preparing everything for the celebration: candles, water and wine, hosts, books for the readers and the priests. The musicians will be tuning up or running through a piece of music.

In the sacristy, the altar servers will be gathering and the priest and deacon will be putting on their vestments.

When everything is ready, they all sing the Gathering Song, and the procession of altar servers, readers, deacon and priest enters the church.

The priest and deacon kiss the altar because it is the symbol of Jesus and it is with Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit that the Church offers this Eucharist to God the Father.

The first words the priest says remind everyone of this: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The priest says: “The Lord be with you”.

The congregation replies: “And with your spirit.”

