

LEARNING FOCUS 2: Greeting: The Introductory Rite.

CONTENT

When you go to a film or see a TV programme, it will begin with a title and a theme tune as an introduction to indicate that it is about to begin. The Eucharist has an introduction to prepare people for what is about to happen. Normally, the Sunday Eucharist will begin with a hymn, which may include something about the theme of that Mass or about people gathering. As this is sung, the priest and the servers walk in procession through the church towards the altar. The priest kisses the altar first because it is a symbol of Christ. It is with Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit that the Church offers the Eucharist to God, the Father. The priest represents Christ and everyone at the Eucharist has their own part to take in the celebration. When the hymn is finished, the priest faces the people and makes the Sign of the Cross. The Eucharist has begun, the people gather in the name of the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- ④ Why do you think it is necessary to have an introduction at the beginning of the Eucharist?
- ④ What is carried in procession at the start of the Eucharist and why do you think these symbols are used?
- ④ Why does the priest kiss the altar?
- ④ Who does the priest represent?

Watch the video, read the information page and read through the slides. Make notes as you do this, then answer the questions on The Eucharist.

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