

**Music** is an essential part of a Solemn Mass. **Plainchant** (traditional Catholic liturgical songs sung in unison) and other sacred music promote the glorification of God, raise our hearts and minds to Him and fill us with a true spirit of devotion.

“To sing is to pray twice” – St Augustine



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## Why a Solemn Mass?



### The definition

**Solemn Mass** ([Latin](#): *missa solemnis*) is, when used not merely as a description, the full ceremonial form of the Mass, celebrated by a priest and a deacon, requiring most of the parts of the Mass to be sung, and the use of incense.



The parts assigned to the deacon are often done by Priests in vestments proper to those roles.

### Why we want it

The Solemn Mass is a traditional type of worship that allows us to contemplate more reverently the glory of Christ in the Eucharist.



### When we celebrate it

Traditionally, a Solemn Mass is celebrated to mark the Feasts of the Church and the main Sunday Mass.

### The Symbols

The sweet-smelling smoke of **Incense** symbolizes our prayers rising up to heaven. It is also used to purify the people and reverences the altar and gospel.



For Solemn Masses, there are six liturgical **candles** on the altar. The pure wax extracted by bees from flowers symbolises the pure flesh of Christ received from His Virgin Mother, the wick signifies the soul of Christ and the flame represents His divinity.

