

## Scripture

Jesus said: 'I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh'.

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.'

John 6:51-58

## Prayer

You are the Bread of life:

*Praise to you!*

You are the Bread of salvation:

*Praise to you!*

You are the Blood  
that redeemed us:

*Praise to you!*

You are the source of our joy:

*Praise to you!*

You are the Bread that feeds us:

*Praise to you!*

You are the Blood that  
quenches our thirst:

*Praise to you!*

You are the Bread that comforts us:

*Praise to you!*

You are the Bread  
that gives us strength:

*Praise to you!*

You are the Bread that  
heals us in body and mind:

*Praise to you!*

A litany from  
*Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist,*

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Consecrated for Worship



**T**he Most Blessed Sacrament should be reserved in a tabernacle in a part of the church that is truly noble, prominent, readily visible, beautifully decorated, and suitable for prayer.

General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 314

# Reservation of the Blessed Sacrament

## The Reservation of the Blessed Sacrament

The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the first place, so that communion and viaticum may be taken to the sick and the dying. Its reservation also affords a precious opportunity for the rest of the faithful for worship and adoration of the Lord's abiding presence

The Church gives two options for where the tabernacle may be placed.

- either in the sanctuary, apart from the altar of celebration, in a form and place more appropriate, not excluding on an old altar no longer used for celebration (GIRM 315);
- or in some chapel suitable for private adoration and prayer of the faithful, which should be organically connected to the church and readily visible to the Christian faithful.

It should be noted that the Liturgy of the Paschal Triduum presumes that the place of reservation will normally be in a separate place from the sanctuary

### Reservation in a Blessed Sacrament Chapel

A separate Blessed Sacrament chapel should be in a conspicuous and distinguished place, secure and decorated appropriately, giving honour and reverence to the Blessed Sacrament, so that no-one may doubt the presence of the Lord and the adoration which is given to him in the reserved Sacrament. By its position and decoration it should be clear that this is a more important space than any others used for devotion (for example the shrine of a saint or a Lady chapel).

The *Order for the Blessing of a New Tabernacle* states that the tabernacle is, as well as a reminder of Christ's presence, 'also a reminder of the brothers and sisters we

must cherish in charity, since it was in fulfilment of the sacramental ministry received from Christ that the Church first began to reserve the Eucharist for the sake of the sick and dying' (BB 1192). Themes and motifs used in the art and embellishment of a place of reservation should reflect these pastoral concerns as well as doctrinal ones.

### A place for quiet prayer

A principal advantage of a Blessed Sacrament Chapel is that it provides a quiet place in which the faithful may gather close to the reserved sacrament for times of private prayer and adoration. The design of the chapel should ensure that proper space is provided for the provision of chairs and kneelers for this prayer. In some circumstances it may be possible to keep this separate chapel open for prayer during the day even if the main body of the church has to be kept locked.

### Reservation on the Sanctuary

The bishop of the diocese may give permission for the sacrament to be reserved in the sanctuary.

The relationship of the reserved sacrament and the Liturgy of the Eucharist should be made clear by the liturgical arrangement of the Church. It should be clear to all that the reserved sacrament derives from the sacrifice offered and shared in during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Where the sacrament is reserved in a tabernacle which is part of an old high altar, that altar should not be used for the celebration of Mass, nor dressed with candles and altar cloths as though it were still in use, or decorated in any special way. In such instances the provision of the tabernacle lamp itself is sufficient.

