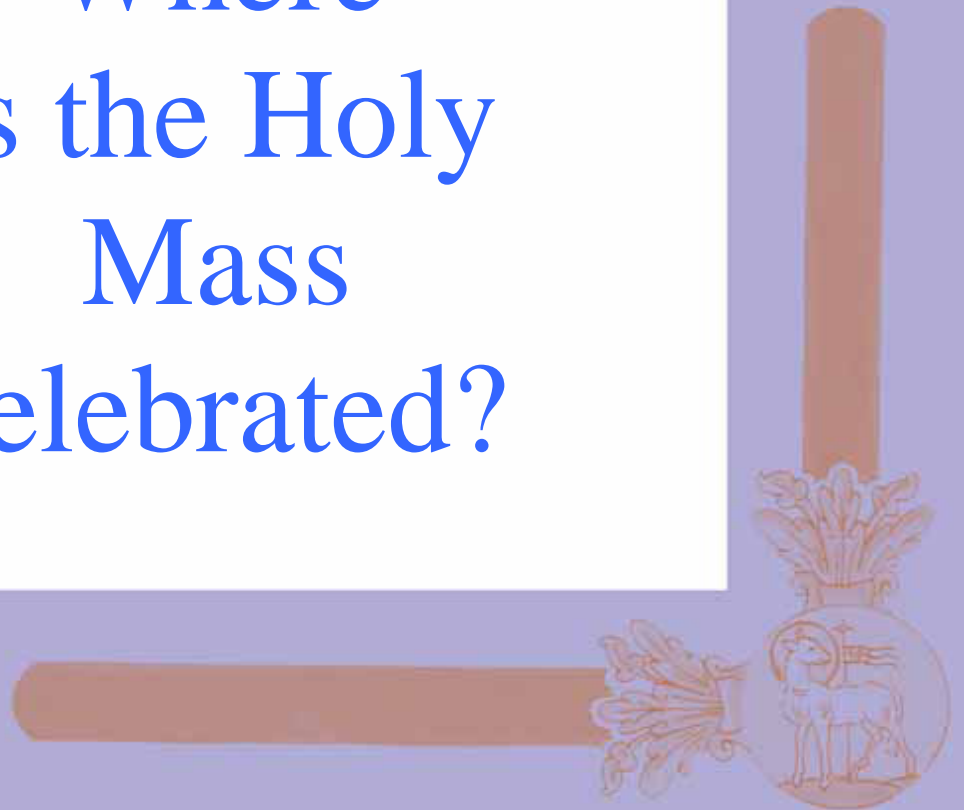


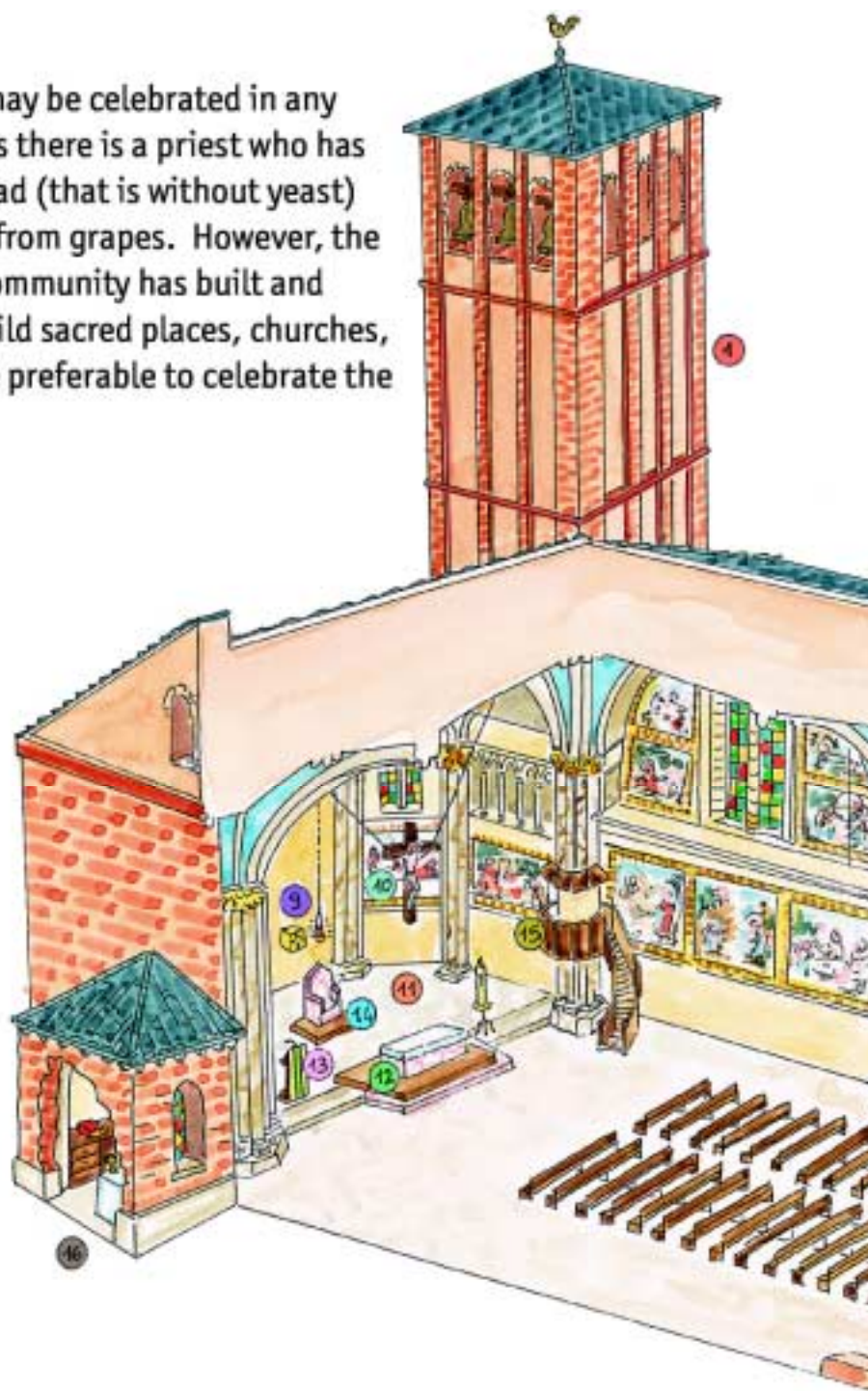


Chapter VI

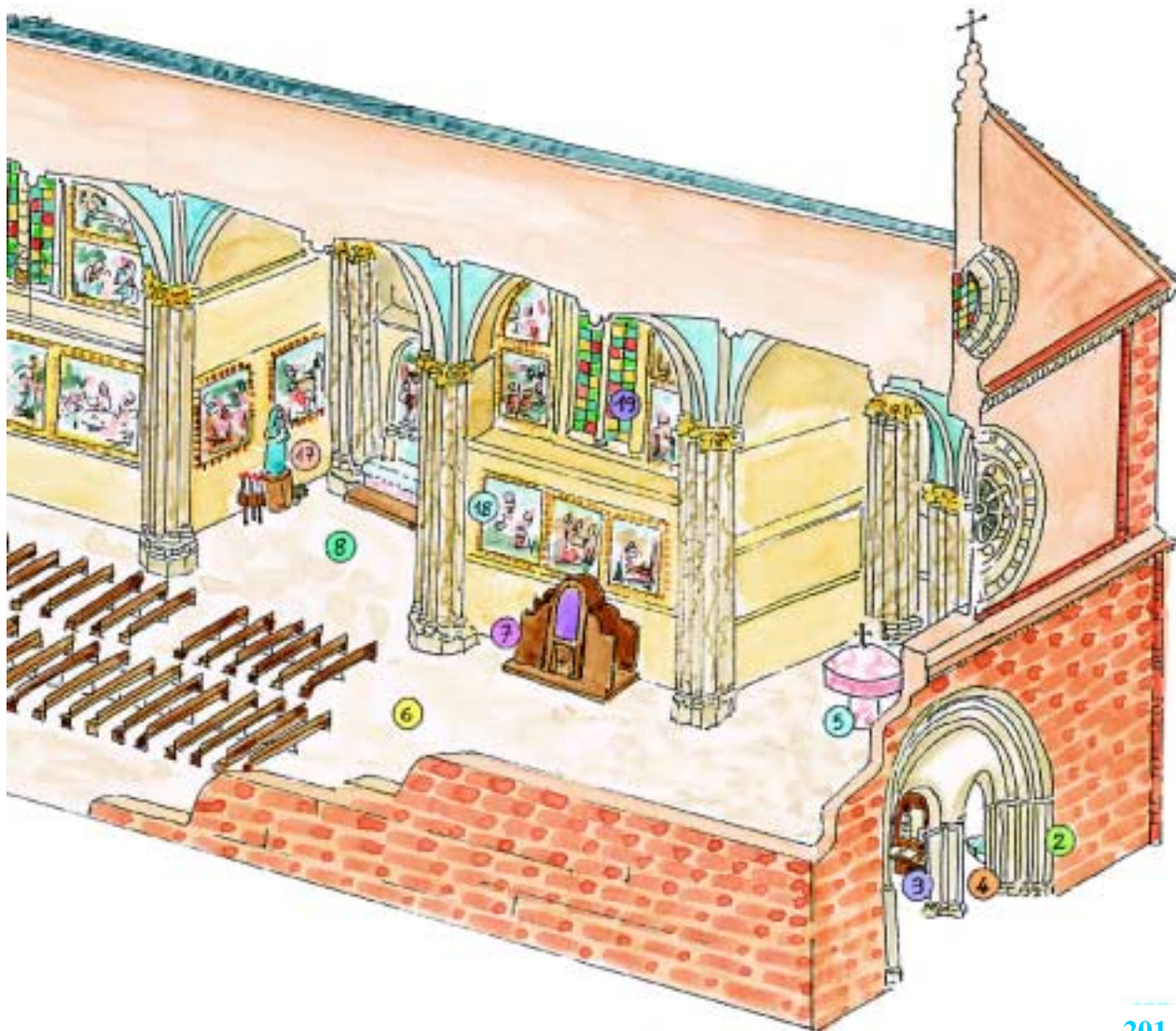
Where is the Holy Mass celebrated?



The Holy Mass may be celebrated in any place, as long as there is a priest who has unleavened bread (that is without yeast) and wine made from grapes. However, the ecclesiastical community has built and continues to build sacred places, churches, where it is more preferable to celebrate the Eucharist.



- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Belfry | 11 Sanctuary |
| 2 Main door | 12 Altar |
| 3 Bulletin board | 13 Ambo |
| 4 Holy Water font | 14 Presider's chair |
| 5 Baptismal font | 15 Pulpit |
| 6 Nave | 16 Sacristy |
| 7 Confessional | 17 Statue |
| 8 Side Chapel | 18 Murals and sacred images |
| 9 Tabernacle | 19 Stained glass windows |
| 10 Cross | |





66 What do we mean by sacred buildings: churches?

Churches are:



God's houses, a symbol that the Church is alive in that particular place, as well as being a symbol of his heavenly dwelling.



Places of prayer where the Eucharist is celebrated and in which Christ, who is really present, day and night in the tabernacle, is adored.



Houses of the Christian community where the faithful gather to pray, to listen to God's Word, to sing the praises of the Lord and, in some instances, to share their problems and search for solutions for different aspects of their daily lives.

67 What are the privileged places that are used for the celebration of the Holy Mass?



The altar.

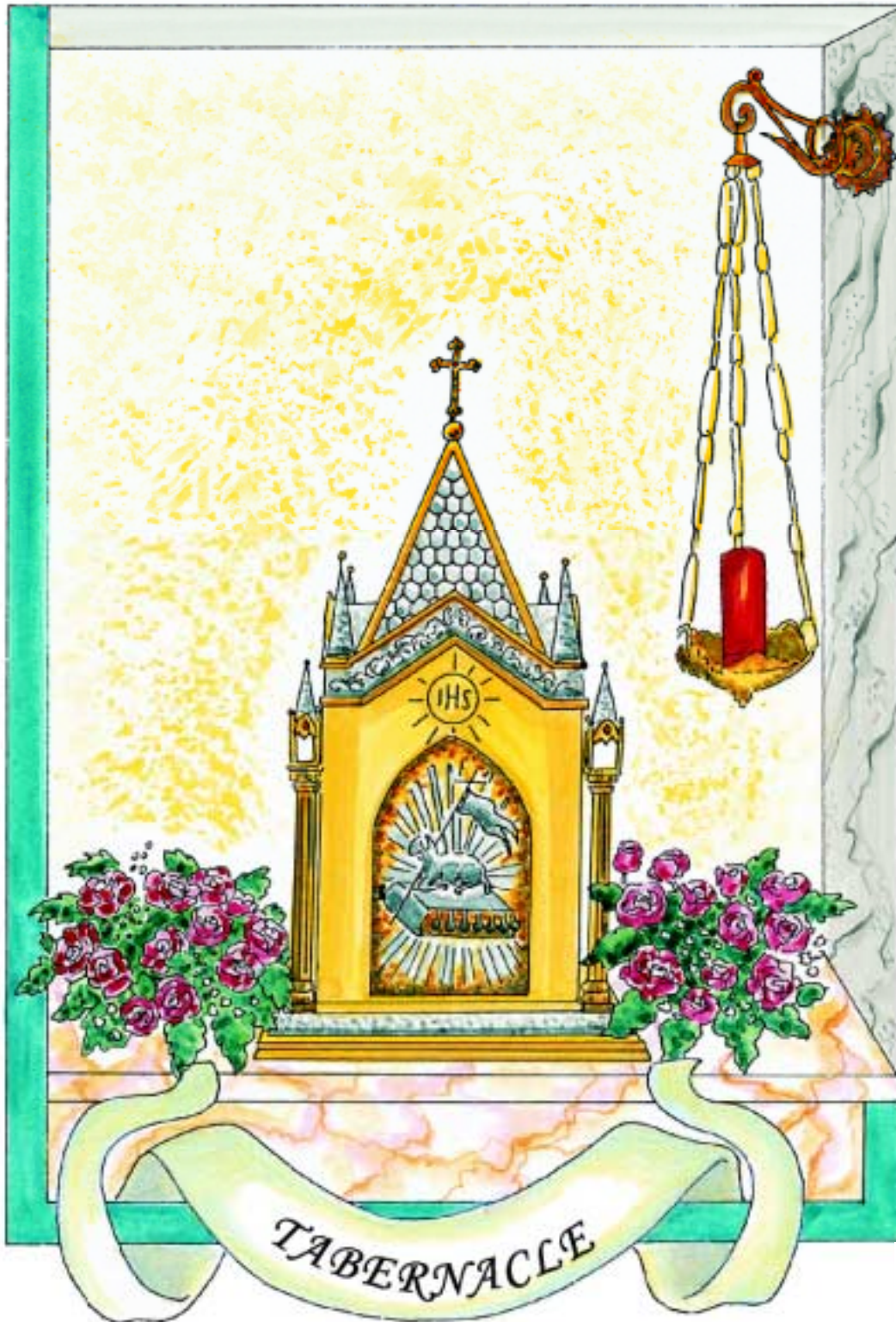
This is a symbol of Christ himself, present as a sacrificial victim (altar-sacrifice on the Cross) and as the heavenly food that is given to us (altar-Eucharistic table). The altar is the holiest part of the temple and is elevated to show that God's work is superior to all that of men and women. The linen cloths (altar cloths) that cover the altar indicate the purity that is necessary if we are to welcome God. The altar is dedicated to Him alone, just as the Church is, and cannot be used for other purposes.





The tabernacle.

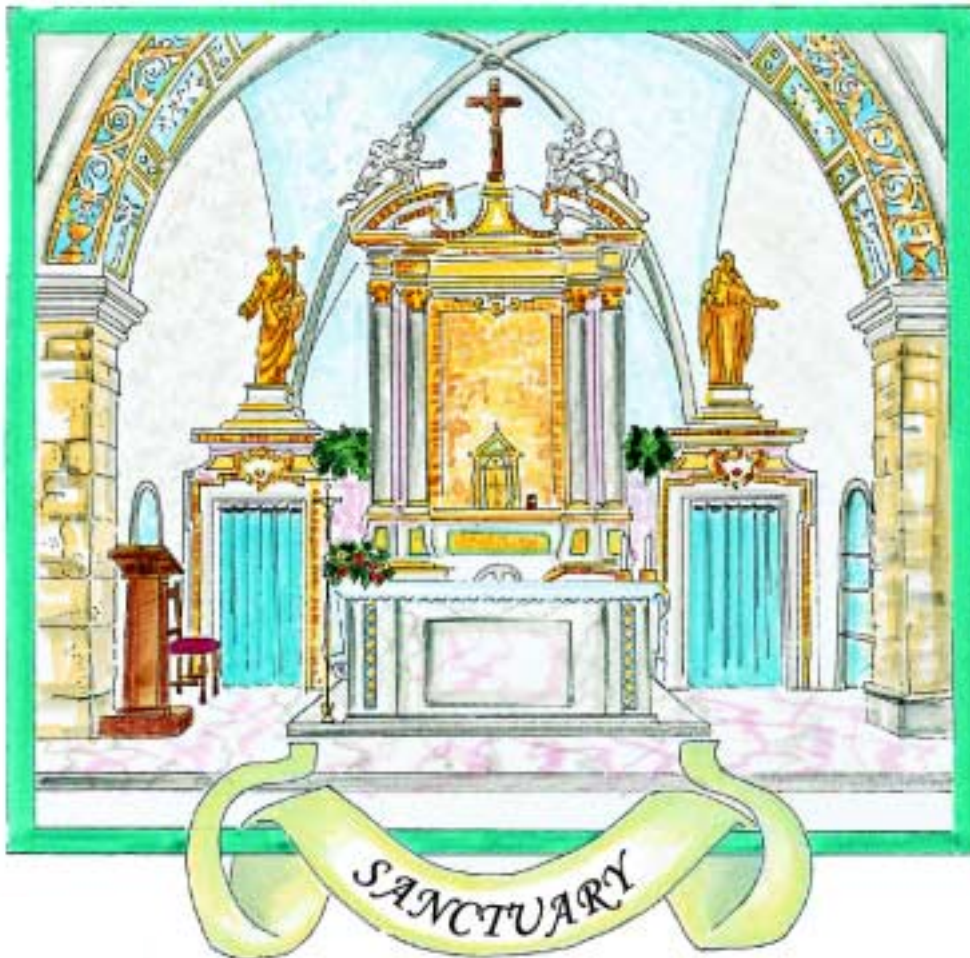
This is also called the place of custody, or where the Eucharist is reserved, because this is where the Most Blessed Sacrament is kept safe after the Eucharistic Celebration. In this place it is adored by the faithful and, from here it is taken as Viaticum to those who are sick.





The presbyterium (sanctuary).

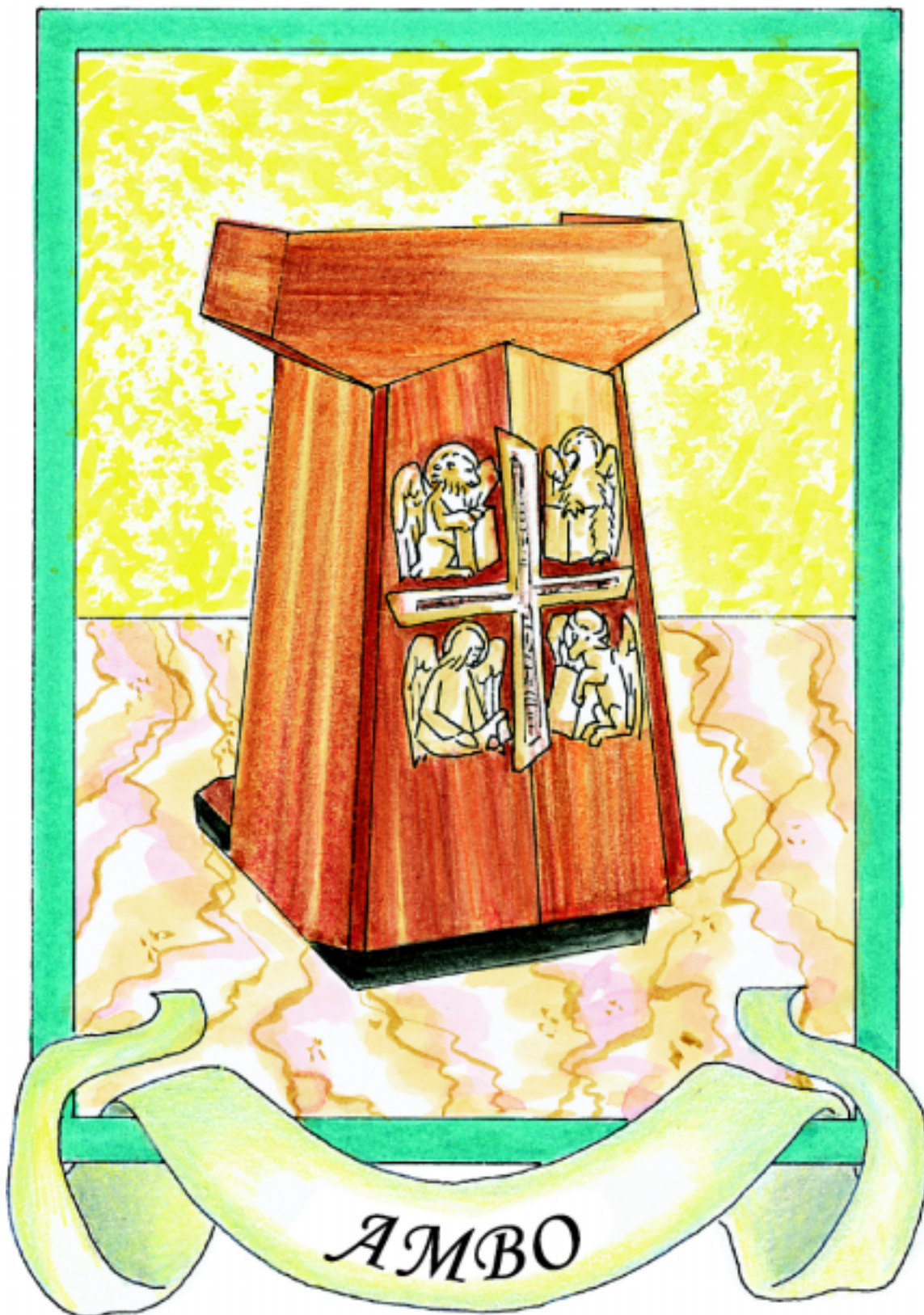
This is the part of the Church, at the centre of which find the altar is located. It has pride of place and is visible from the other parts of the Church since it is raised up slightly so that all the faithful are able to see what takes place there and to indicate that it is a 'privileged place' where the Holy Mass is celebrated. It is a space reserved for those who minister in God's name, an eloquent sign that God who chooses and admits ministers for his service. The term presbyterium also indicates the collective name for the priests of a diocese under the guidance of a Bishop.





The ambo.

This is where the Word of God is proclaimed.

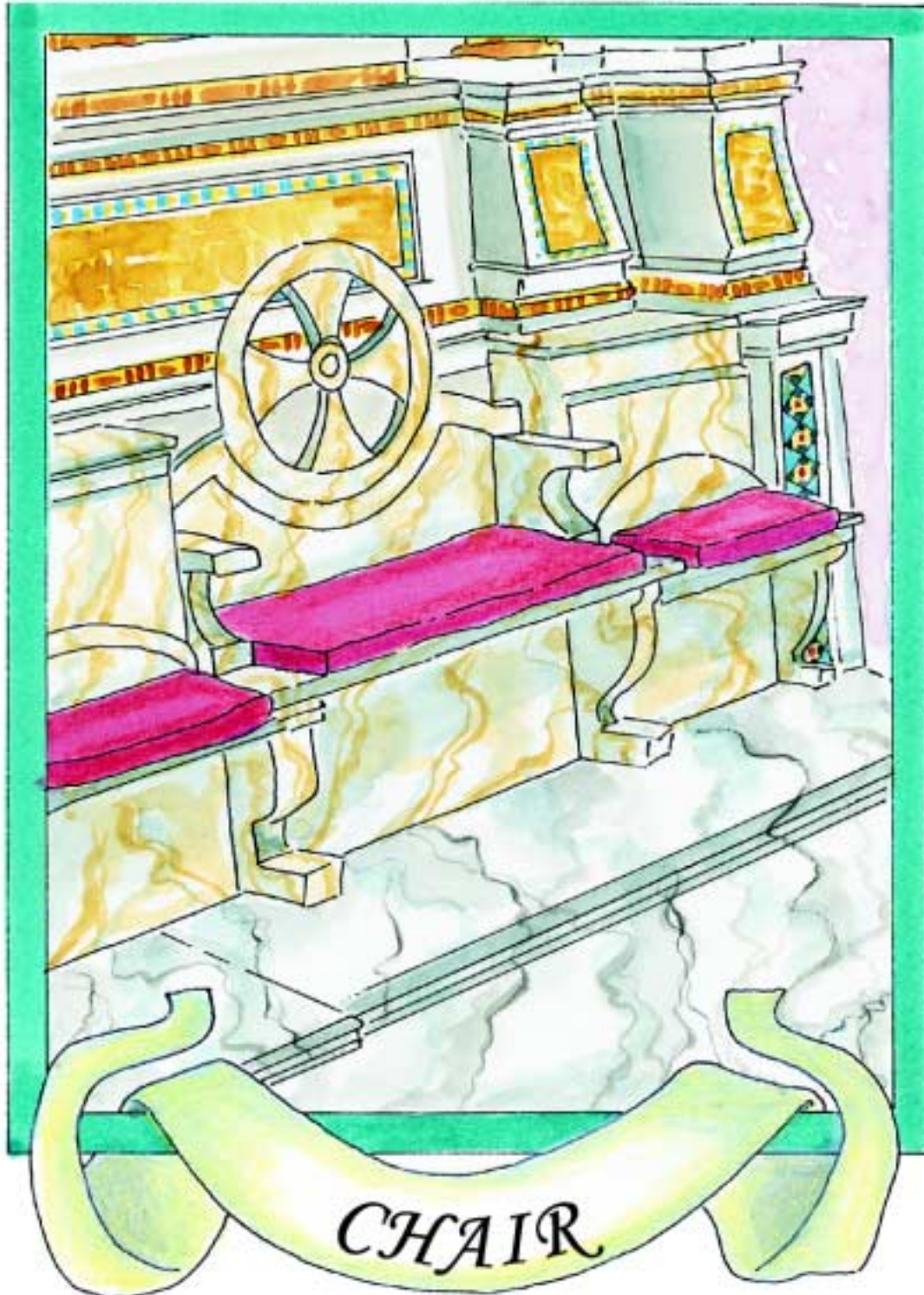




The celebrant's or presider's chair.

This is to show that the celebrant presides at the assembly and leads the faithful in prayer.

The altar, the ambo and the Presider's chair represent the triple mission of Christ: Christ is a priest at the altar, a prophet at the ambo and a king at the chair.





The pulpit.

This is a place for preaching made from marble or wood and often situated against a column or in the central nave of the longest part of the Church.



68

Why is it important that the place of celebration be something beautiful?

Because the beauty and the decorations of the sacred space and of everything that is connected to the Eucharist communicates in a certain way the very beauty of God, of the Church and of our encounter with the person we love, that is, with the Lord who is truly present.

The organization of the space and the way in which the liturgical space is appointed, the quality of the architecture and art of the sacred objects are a clear sign of the richness of the ecclesiastical tradition and shows its continuity, its sacredness and its spirituality.

It is not only what we hear that is important but also what we see. If we do not give importance to these things then our faith is weakened.

