

LAUNDERING CHURCH LINENⁱ

SMALL LINEN

All small linen may need some stain removal (red wine and lipstick), either by soaking, or gentle scrubbing (the fine linen purificators prefer soaking to rubbing, but please do not use bleach). Only the corporals and credence cloths are given any (spray) starch, on the folds. Others have no starch.

If there is any candle wax (unusual on these small pieces), remove any dry excess wax, pour boiling water over the remainder, and then wash normally.

Purificators:

These are fine linen 'serviettes' used with the chalice. Each has a cross embroidered on it.

We have two sizes - a rectangular shape and a smaller square one. Both are ironed in a triple-fold, with the cross in the centre. The longer size is then doubled back to make it roughly the same size as the small ones.

Square:



Rectangular:

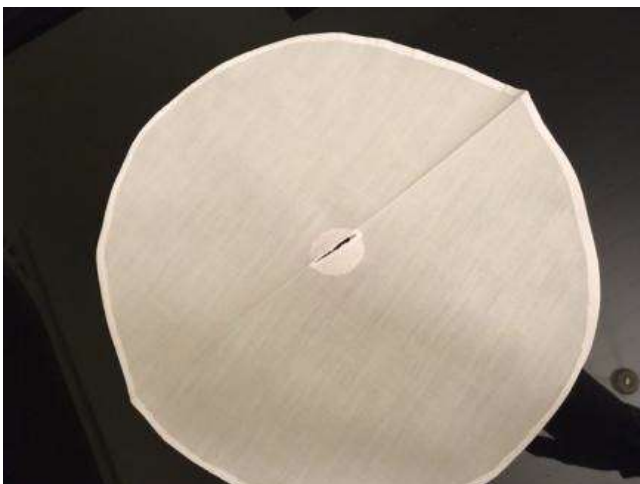


Lavabo Towels:

These are small towelettes used by the Presider when asking absolution/hand-washing ('Lavabo') before the communion. Each has a cross embroidered on it. They are folded as for the long purificators:



Veils: Veils are circular pieces with a hole in the centre, used to cover the consecrated bread and wine. Simply iron, and fold across centre, into half-circle.



Baptismal Towels: Baptismal towels are half-squares of towelling, used during baptism. Please fold in half. No ironing needed.



Corporals:

Corporals are the small cloths which are laid on the altar, over the large altar cloth. The communion vessels are placed on the Corporal.

These are the only small linen pieces on which we use spray starch.

They are square, and come in a range of sizes, depending on how many vessels we are using. The smallest is about 300mm square; the largest is 600mm sq.



The corporals are given two lots of trifolds: three one way, then three the other way, making nine squares. There is usually a cross in the centre, and it is folded into the centre first, so that the cross is revealed last.

Iron underside first. Turn over, and (with cross closest to you):

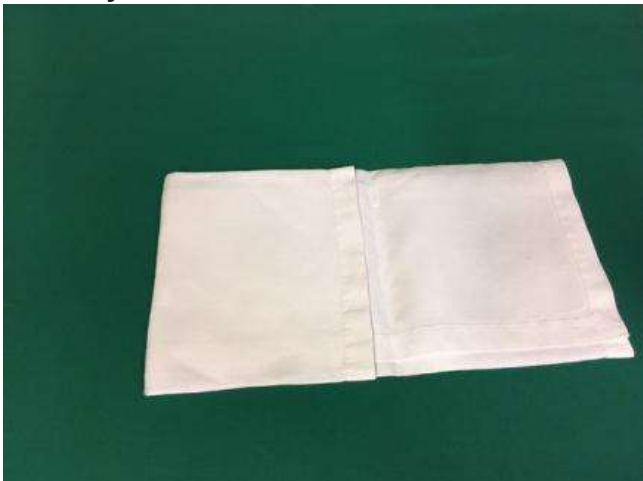
1. Iron lower third turned up.



2. Iron upper third turned down.



3. Turn left third in.

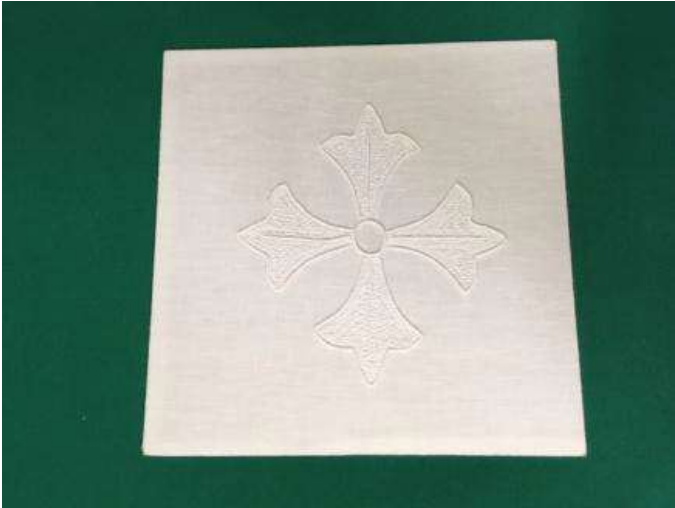


4. Turn right third in.



Result is a small square of folds.

Pall:



There may be an occasional pall to launder - this is the small square that is placed over the chalice. It is made of linen-covered perspex, and can be washed by hand, and rinsed without damage.

We have three sizes of palls - small, medium, and the large altar palls.

CREDESCENCE CLOTHS

At times there may be a Credence Table cloth to launder. It is a long rectangle, up to about 1 metre in length. There is always an embroidered ID on one end (under side). These medium sized pieces may also be given a little spray starch.

We usually roll these onto a tube as we iron, but if there is no tube taken when linen is collected, simply fold in half at central point.

If a tube is available, when rolling them onto the tube, roll top/front of cloth close to the tube, and ensure that the ID is on the outside end, so that it is easily seen.

I iron the underside (with ID) first, and then the front-side, so that it is close to the tube - see photo.

When the roll is complete, tie it to keep neat. The ID is visible near the bow.

When unrolled, the "outside" is the under-side, and therefore showing the ID, and easy to roll onto the credence table.



ALTAR CLOTHS

We use this same method with altar cloths, because at 5m in length, the cloth is easier to manage if the roller is placed onto the altar, and simply unrolled. This provides minimal adjustment of the cloth and is less likely to crush.

ⁱ Adapted with permission from *Linen Laundering*, St John's Cathedral, 2019.