**Why Veil?**

In the Catholic tradition, statues and images are veiled during Lent, particularly during Passiontide (the last two weeks of Lent), to symbolize the penitential nature of the season and to focus on Christ's passion and death, prompting a deeper reflection on the Paschal Mystery.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

* **Penitential Focus:**

The veiling serves as a visible reminder of the Lenten season's call to repentance, fasting, and prayer, encouraging a deeper spiritual focus.

* **Symbol of Austerity:**

The veils represent a "fasting of the eyes," a symbolic deprivation of the usual visual splendour of the church, which helps to heighten the sense of anticipation for the celebration of Easter.

* **Emphasis on Christ's Sacrifice:**

By covering the images, the focus shifts to the suffering and death of Christ, preparing the faithful for the celebration of his resurrection.

* **Historical Context:**

The practice of veiling statues and images during Lent has roots in the medieval tradition of the "Hunger Cloth," where the entire altar was covered during Lent, symbolizing a separation from the table of the Lord.

* **Passiontide:**

The veiling is particularly prominent during Passiontide, the last two weeks of Lent, which is a time of special focus on the Passion and death of Christ.

* **Unveiling at Easter:**

The veils are removed during the Easter Vigil, marking the culmination of the Lenten season and the joyous celebration of Christ's resurrection.