

Welcome to our parish community .

We hope you and your children enjoy being in our Church.

Please take this leaflet with you. It will help you to enjoy your time with us.

THINGS TO DO WITH CHILDREN BEFORE MASS

- On the way to church talk about what will happen when you get there, what it will be like.
- Sit where your child is able to see what is happening at the front of the church.
- Point out the altar, lectern, tabernacle, stations of the cross, statues, crucifix.
- Look for colours, symbols and pictures. Try to explain what you think these mean.
- Talk about the people who help during the service and the jobs they do. (Priest, choir, altar servers, welcomers, Eucharist Minister,

THINGS TO DO WITH CHILDREN DURING MASS

- Allow your child to sit comfortably.
- Don't worry if your child wriggles; adults wriggle too!
- Your child will be watching and modelling your actions. Try to relax and enjoy yourself!
- Briefly explain what is happening as the mass progresses.
- Encourage your child to join in. Hold the hymn book together. Stand and sit at the appropriate times.

THINGS TO DO WITH CHILDREN AFTER MASS

- Encourage your child to say hello and shake hands. Talk with parishioners and stay for a tea or coffee.
- Talk about the mass by mentioning things that you particularly enjoyed (the singing, prayers, communion, etc) or something that happened during mass.
- Light a candle together, pray for someone you know.
- Have a treat on the way home.

THINGS TO DO WITH CHILDREN DURING THE WEEK.

- Say simple prayers together, before meals, or at bedtime.
- Buy or borrow a 'toddler's' or 'beginner's' Bible to read at home.
- Speak positively about Church. Make 'going to church' a special event.
- With your child, put aside a small amount of money for the offering. Explain that it is a gift for the work of the church.

WORSHIP IN CHURCH IS . . .

GATHERING

God calls us to meet together

- joining in songs of praise
- praying for ourselves and others
- asking for God's forgiveness

THE WORD

God speaks and we listen through

- reading the Scriptures
- hearing the homily
- professing our faith

COMMUNION

Jesus invites us to

- As a sign of our communion with God and with each other, we receive him in Holy Communion
- We share Jesus in a very special way

GOING FORTH

The Holy Spirit nurtures and enable us to go out into our world

- loving our neighbours as ourselves
- offering the gift of God to others

THE CHURCH YEAR

The church's year is made of different seasons, special days, holy days and saints' days. Seasons and special days are marked by the use of different colours for altar hangings and the Priest's vestments. The four standard colours are white, purple, green and red and are known as liturgical colours.

ADVENT is the four weeks of waiting before Christmas. Colour - **purple**.

CHRISTMAS celebrates the birth of Jesus, God's gift to the world. Colour - **white**.

EPIPHANY is the time when the church thinks about the wise men bringing gifts and how Jesus came for everyone. Colour - **white/green**

LENT is the six and a half weeks before Easter, beginning with Ash Wednesday. Colour - **purple**.

EASTER is the joyful celebration of the day that Jesus rose from the dead. Colour - **white**.

PENTECOST celebrates the day on which the Holy Spirit came into the lives of Jesus' followers in a powerful way. Colour - **red**



Children in Church

- A helpful guide for parents