

People stop coming to Mass for all kinds of reasons

Some never really started.

*Perhaps you were baptised as a Catholic,
even made your First Communion, but you were never
much part of the family of the Church.*

*Your parents rarely came to Mass,
so you didn't either.*

*Perhaps you stopped coming as a teenager,
even after being confirmed.*

*You found it boring. It wasn't 'cool' to come to Church.
It was so easy just
to drift away quietly.*

*Perhaps you were hurt by something said or done by
someone at Church. You may still feel angry about it.
We want you to know we are very sorry.*

*Or perhaps you felt unworthy because of
something you did. You felt uncomfortable
being there because you knew deep in your heart that
you were doing wrong or at least that the Church
disapproved.*

*Perhaps your marriage broke down.
You are now in a new relationship,
even married again.*

*Perhaps you cannot receive Communion,
so you don't see the point of coming.*

***If you have been away for a long time, you may find
the Church today is very different.
Have a fresh look and give it another go.***

*Whatever the reason you left, please come back to
Church and join in your parish community.*

We miss you.

*You are a vital part of God's family
and we want you to come home to
your Christian family, the Church.*



Our Church Family

***The Church is not just a building.
It's a community, a family. Together, we
are God's royal family. We are the
community of God's beloved
sons and daughters.***

***There is no greater dignity than that!
You may not always have seen the
Church like that. Perhaps you have had
bad experiences in the past.
The Church always needs renewal. It is
made up of ordinary people, fragile
human beings who fail and fall.***

***Our Diocese of Leeds and your local
parish community are not perfect, but
we are trying hard to be a true family
where everyone is warmly welcome...***



BUT...

But I don't know anyone...

*Perhaps not, though you may be surprised. Don't be
worried that people will look at you. There are lots of
ways of meeting others and feeling you belong.*

But I am afraid of Confession...

*Don't worry about that for the moment. Just come along
to Mass and get used to what goes on. Get the feel of
the Church and its worship. Come forward for a
blessing at Communion time if you would like to (just
bow your head and cross your arms across your chest
to indicate that you would like a blessing). When you
are ready, come to the great Sacrament of
Reconciliation (often referred to as Confession). It may
seem rather daunting, but tell the priest it's a while
since you've been and ask him to help you. God will
give you his forgiveness and peace as he lifts past
burdens of sin from your heart and gives you a new
beginning.*

But I can't receive Communion...

*You may have heard you cannot receive Holy
Communion and perhaps you can't do much to change
how things are. Come and talk it through with your
priest to clarify the situation. Even if you cannot receive
Communion, coming to Mass is still a wonderful thing
to do. There are lots of people at Mass every Sunday
who can't receive Communion - not just children who
haven't made their First Communion, but also non-
Catholic husbands and wives, and perhaps people in
the same situation as you. You are still part of our
family, and you will receive many blessings by coming
to Church. There's a deep pain in not being able to
receive Communion, but an even greater loss in not
being part of the Mass and the Church at all. Try to be
as fully involved as you can in our life and worship.*

Coming Back To Mass

The Mass is the very heart and centre of our life as Catholics. Taking part in the Mass is the hallmark of being a Catholic.

Why?

Because the Risen Lord himself invites each one of us, calling us by name to spend time with him, to listen to him speaking to us in the Scripture readings from the Bible, to proclaim our faith together, to unite our lives with his sacrifice, and to have our inner self, our soul, nourished by the gift of his own life.

It is Jesus himself who says to us about the Mass: 'Do this in memory of me.'

*Jesus calls us his friends.
We are his family.*

The Mass is our Lord's most precious gift, because there he gathers us together and shares his life with us. There he fills us with his life and his love, and gives us a peace no-one else can give.

It is the Risen Jesus himself who stands in your Church, with his arms open in welcome, inviting you to join his group of friends who gather close to him.

No matter how long you have been away, you will be very warmly welcome – by the Lord and by his Church

Jesus says: 'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest.'

YOUR DIOCESAN FAMILY



Our Diocese of Leeds consists of the County of West Yorkshire together with parts of North Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Lancashire. Under the leadership of Bishop Arthur Roche we are members of the Catholic Church which the Lord Jesus

founded on the faith of his Apostles. United with our Holy Father, the Pope, and millions of Catholics throughout the world we want to celebrate and share our faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God who came to bring us the Good News of his Gospel. By coming to Mass we come close to Christ so that we can share his love with others.

The parish is the main place where we live our Catholic life together. You can find information about our Diocese and contact details of your local parish on our Diocesan Website.

www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk

For more information about the Catholic faith, go to:
www.life4seekers.co.uk

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WELCOME HOME



Thinking about coming back to Church?

