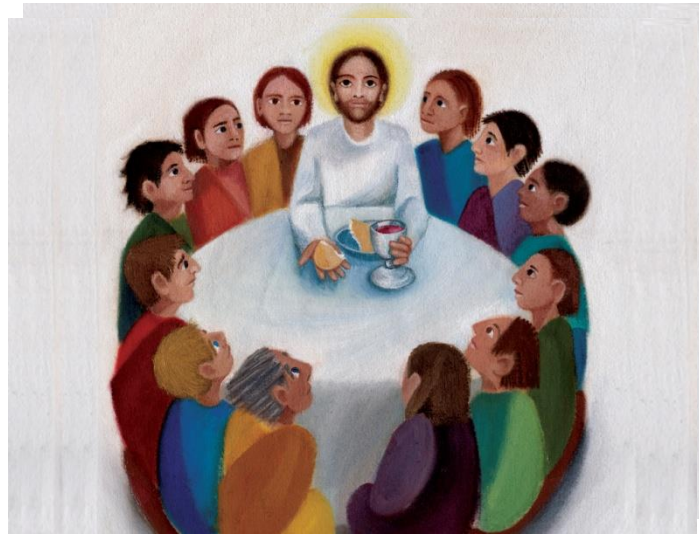


# The Mass



# The Mass

- *The Mass is central to the life of the Catholic Church and to everything that Catholics do in living their faith.*
- *In the Mass we find all the elements that bring together what we believe: what we are experiencing in the events of our lives, what we need in order to live our faith, how we learn more about our faith and how we can put it into practice.*
- *It also brings Catholics together in something that is much more than just a relationship or association; it brings us into 'communion'.*

- *It is important that children are both familiar and comfortable with the Mass and grow in their understanding that it is a place of welcome and a spiritual place where we all rest in the sense of being loved by God.*

- *The signs and symbols of the Mass are all there to give meaning to what we are doing, so that we can understand the amazing truth of the love of God, which is expressed in this time of prayer.*
- *This love is not something abstract or isolated from life, but an energy that touches every aspect of our lives.*
- *Children can learn so much from the simple symbols used in the Mass and by being invited to help in the celebration of a Mass for a particular occasion*

# Introductory Rites

## We gather

- *Entrance Procession*
- *Sign of the Cross and Greeting*
- *Penitential Act*
- *Gloria*
- *Collect (Opening Prayer)*



- *We come to Mass to thank and love God and remember how much God loves us.*
- *When we were baptised we became part of God's family.*
- *When we gather at Mass we show we belong to the Church family.*

# Preparing for Mass

- *Before the celebration of the Mass, many preparations take place. Some people in the parish give their time and use their talents to prepare for the celebration and to prepare the church for Mass.*

# The Introductory Rites

- *The Mass begins with the Introductory Rites.*
- *The various elements which make up the Introductory Rites are preparatory.*
- *They prepare us to listen to God's Word in the Liturgy of the Word and to receive Christ worthily in the Liturgy of the Eucharist.*





# Penitential Rites

- *At the beginning of Mass we have the opportunity to say sorry to God and to each other for our sins and for anything we may have done wrong.*
- *We know that God is waiting to show us love, mercy and forgiveness.*

# Penitential Rites

- ***Lord, have mercy.***
- ***Christ, have mercy.***
- ***Lord, have mercy.***
- ***I confess to almighty God and to you my brothers and sisters.....***



# The Gloria

- *The Gloria\* is a prayer that we often sing (and sometimes say) during Mass. It is a happy hymn of joy, praise and thanksgiving to God for all the wonderful things God has done for us. The first sentence of this prayer comes from the words the shepherds heard the angels sing the night Jesus was born, 'Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.'*

# The Opening prayer

- *The priest has welcomed us to the celebration of the Mass. We have acknowledged our need of forgiveness for our sins and we have given praise to God through the Gloria. This is now all summed up in the Opening Prayer.*



# The Collect and The Liturgy of the Word

The word liturgy means, 'the work of the people'  
It is taken from the Greek  
*leitourgia* : *leitōs* = of the people and *ergon* =  
work.

*Offering children an opportunity to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word provides them a chance of discovering for themselves the riches of God's teaching and love.*

The official guidelines on Liturgy with Children from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales 1996 state:

*Liturgy is the praise and worship of God.*

*Liturgy is the source and summit of the Church's life and ours.*

*The purpose of the Liturgy is to build up the members of Christ's body, to strengthen us in preaching Christ.*

# The Opening prayer

- *The priest has welcomed us to the celebration of the Mass. We have acknowledged our need of forgiveness for our sins and we have given praise to God through the Gloria. This is now all summed up in the Opening Prayer.*



# The Readings and the Responsorial Psalm





# The Gospel of the Lord



# The Homily



The priest speaks to us  
about the Good News of Jesus

# Explaining the symbols and gestures of the Eucharistic Prayer



During the introduction to the Eucharistic prayer the priest prays with his arms outstretched, elbows bent or at the side, with arms uplifted and palms upward- a gesture of supplication or pleading. His arms outstretch are a sign that he is including and praying on behalf of all the people, not just himself.



Near the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer the priest makes the Sign of the Cross once over the bread and chalice together, saying: **“and bless these gifts, these offerings”**. Here, the sign of the cross is a blessing over the gifts.





In the Eucharist Prayer, the priest stretches his hands over the bread and wine which is the sign of calling down the Holy Spirit to change or to consecrate these gifts into the body and blood of Christ. At this time he prays that the Holy Spirit may come upon the gifts to make them holy.



He raises the bread, and says:

Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my Body, which will be given up for you.

An altar server rings the sanctuary bells as the Host is raised. The Priest then continues the prayers and raises the chalice and says:

Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me. The sanctuary bells are again rung.

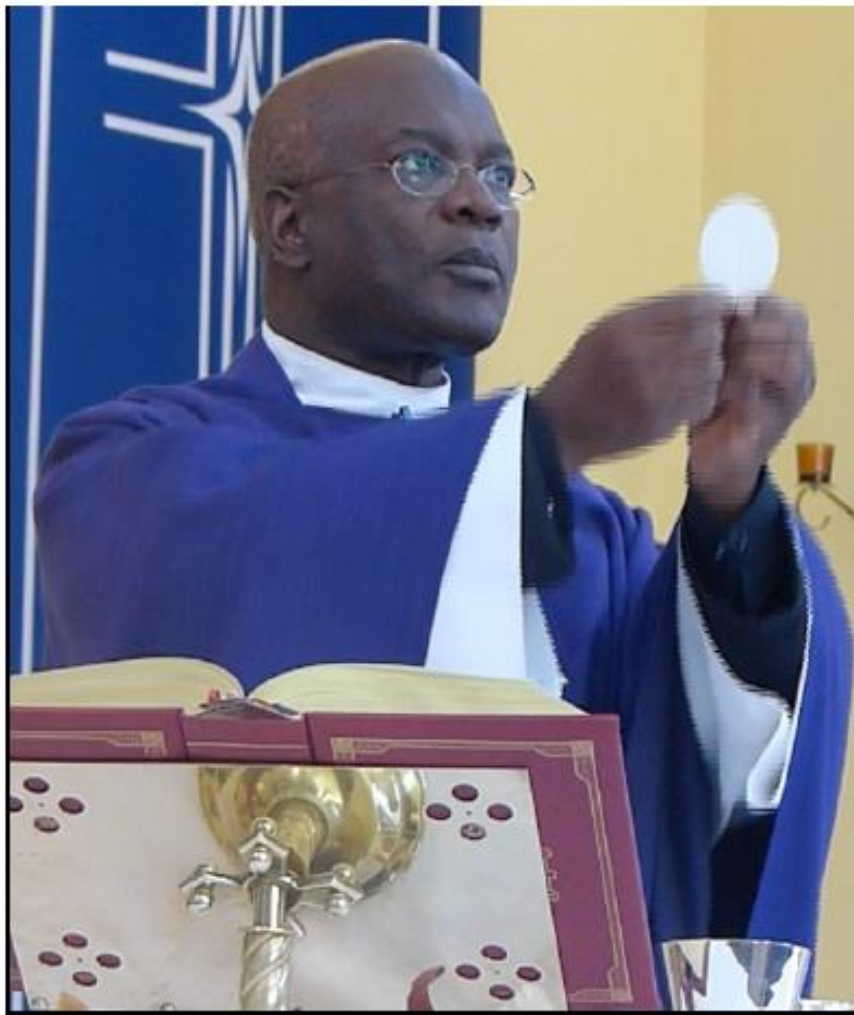


The priest raises the consecrated host and chalice of wine to the people to help them understand that the bread and wine have changed, or been consecrated, to become the Body and Blood of Jesus and so that they can adore Jesus.



He himself then genuflects as a sign of adoration.  
The bells remind the people what is happening.





'Take this, all of you and eat of it;  
for this is my Body,  
which will be given up for you.'



'Take this, all of you and drink from it; for this  
is the Chalice of my blood, the blood of the  
new and eternal covenant.  
Which will be poured out for you and for  
many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in memory of me.'

# Communion Rite

- The Lord's Prayer
- The Sign of Peace
- Lamb of God
- Holy Communion
- Prayer after Communion

# The Lord's Prayer

- Simple but challenging
- Daily bread
- Forgiveness
- Temptation can be difficult
- Prayer for peace and unity



Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those  
who trespass against us  
and lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil, Amen.

# Sign of peace

- Greet others as friends of Jesus
- Sharing the gift of peace



# The Lamb of God

- An invitation to communion
- “ *Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.*”



Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.”

# Holy Communion

- Reverance
- Prayer
- Amen (which means “I agree”)









# Prayer after Communion

- Time for personal reflection

