

Children's Liturgy at St Mary's Church

The Children's Liturgy takes place during 11am Mass every Sunday in the Presbytery. The number of children attending the Children's Liturgy group varies weekly but all are welcome whether attending mass regularly or occasionally.

The sessions are delivered by a team of volunteers in teaching and supporting roles. All volunteers are DRB checked and most are parents of children attending.

What age groups should attend these sessions and do parents need to accompany their children?

Children are split into two groups each week. Children up to Year 2 (age 7) are in one group and children Year 3 and above are in a second group. Parents/carers are expected to accompany children who are Pre-school age but no parental attendance is required or expected for other children. Parents who attend the sessions do so on condition that they assist throughout the session.

Where should children gather and how should they proceed to the presbytery from the church?

All children should go to the front of the church and gather by the altar when called by the priest at the beginning of mass. Children will then file out of the church together with the adults who are leading and supporting the session. Children are encouraged not to bring toys with them.

What is the format for the liturgy sessions?

The children gather in their respective rooms and are welcomed. The theme of the week will be presented, discussed and illustrated and gospel/story read/discussed. The younger group will receive a very simple message. Children will then be given an activity to complete. A

closing prayer will be said at the end of the session and children will then be led back quietly into the Church. The children will present to the congregation their learning as suitable and appropriate, if they are comfortable to do so.

If you would like to help with the Children's Liturgy, please speak to Father Paul Harris