

Children's Liturgy

St Mary Magdalen's

The Children's Liturgy is a continuation of Mass and runs every Sunday during term time at the 9:30am Mass. Each week the children will learn about a topic pertinent to the week's Gospel, or for younger children, a positive Christian message or bible story. All children who have not yet prepared for First Holy Communion are invited to attend.

It is an opportunity for children to learn about Jesus and the Catholic religion in an environment more suited to their age. As part of their weekly routine, children will also become familiar with the Catholic rituals and understand the respect that God's house deserves.

There are up to 100 children attending each week's session so here's a little guide to how it works and how parents can help to make the Children's Liturgy a success for all.

During the Mass after the opening rite, Fr Richard invites the children to leave the church and go to the hall. If you have pre-school children one parent/carer should go with the child(ren). Older children are supervised so parents can remain in the church. If parents do go we ask that they sit with the group and engage and support the leaders.

Once inside the hall everyone should sit down as quickly as possible for the opening prayer. Parents should also sit and are encouraged to support the group leader to keep children quiet and attentive, and join in the prayer and responses.

The opening prayer is:

*Loving Father, all this day,
bless me in my work and play.
Bless the good I mean to do, help me do
it Lord, for you.
Bless the people I shall meet, give me
loving hands and feet.
Quick to help, and quick to do,
All I can for love of you.*

The group leader will introduce the theme and encourage interaction with the children. Each week this will change and may involve music, singing, acting and other ways to keep the children interested and learn the message of the week. There is usually an activity so all children can contribute.

Just before the end, the leader will ask the group to return to the mat/chairs for a final prayer. With the final Sign of the Cross, children should keep their hands in the prayer position and quietly line up to return to the church. **Please** can all parents ensure their children are quiet as they return to the church.

Once back in the church, Fr Richard will continue the Mass and children must remain as quiet as possible. If a child is being disruptive or continuously noisy they must be taken outside.

All children attending Children's Liturgy must be registered. For a registration form, please contact please contact Tara on 07808 737 861 or damianandtara@yahoo.co.uk

Children's Liturgy relies on parent volunteers who operate on a 7-week rota to run the groups. If you would like to help, please contact Tara as above.