

Welcome to our parish community .

We really hope you and your child/ children enjoy being in our church. It really matters to us that you are here. Don't worry about children being children!

Baby changing facilities and a toilet are to be found in the porch. Please help yourself to any of the bags with quiet toys and books which are to be found in the meeting room.

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. (See leaflet about our church).
- Talk about the people who help during the service and what they do.

DURING MASS.....

- 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.
- Sometimes we have a Children's Liturgy for children which your child may wish to attend.
- Enjoy shaking hands at the sign of peace.
- You and your child/children are welcome to come forward at communion.

AFTER MASS.....

- Talk with parishioners and stay for a tea or coffee when available
- Talk positively 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 and pray for someone you know.
- Have a treat on the way home!

DURING THE WEEK.....

- Say simple prayers together at appropriate times.
- Buy or borrow a 'toddler's' or 'beginner's' Bible to read at home.
- Speak positively about Church. Make 'going to church' a happy event.
- Put aside a small amount of money for the offertory collection. 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:

- As a sign of our communion with God and with each other to receive Him in Holy Communion.
- We share Jesus in a very special way

GOING FORTH

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

- love our neighbour as ourselves
- offer 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**
Other times are 'ordinary' Colour- **green**

Insert name of parish and photograph of church.

Children in Church

- A helpful guide for parents in the parishes of Doncaster Deanery in the Diocese of Hallam