

Behaviour in Church

It is heartening to see parishioners obey God's command to 'Keep holy the Sabbath' and answer His invitation to celebrate the Eucharist in the holy Mass. Jesus said: 'Let the children come to me' so it is also pleasing to have many children attend. However, with regret, a reminder of the standards of behaviour within church has become necessary.

1. **PUNCTUALITY**

Please make efforts to correct habitual lateness. God deserves our time to prepare for celebrating meeting him and receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. Consider how you disturb others by your late arrival.

2. **REVERENCE**

All adults and children should acknowledge God's presence in the Blessed Sacrament residing in the tabernacle. Therefore, wherever entering the church or crossing the sanctuary STOP - FACE THE TABERNACLE - GENUFLECT (OR BOW IF UNABLE TO GENUFLECT). Please stop children running around and across as if in a playground.

3. **PHONES**

Mobile phones should be switched off or put to silent mode. While in church and during Masses calls should not be answered or text messages sent. Show God that He takes priority over that phone call. Be mindful of the first commandment 'Love God above all things!'

4. **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

If you are unfortunately late, to prevent disturbance, do not send your child to the group. Children must return to their parents after their liturgy service. The leaders need the opportunity to fully partake in the most important part of Mass (Liturgy of the Eucharist), rather than look after many children. It is the parents' role to exemplify how to pray and behave at this time.

Note - children preparing for First Holy Communion may no longer attend.

5. **TOILETS**

Toilet usage during Mass for emergencies and medical conditions is understandable. However, regular and frequent usage by especially children has recently increased. This noisy disturbance can be avoided by checking the toilet is used at home just before leaving for church.

6. **FOOD AND DRINK**

An hour fast is required before receiving Holy Communion so no food or drink should be consumed in church. Even children can manage to wait until Mass is over. (Babies requiring their milk are not referred to here) It is unacceptable to clear up sweet wrappers, broken crisps and biscuits, cake crumbs, sticky lollipops, even spat out chewing gum! Would you expect visitors to leave such a mess in your home?

7. **DRESS ATTIRE**

The colder weather approaches, but as a sign of respect it is the tradition for boys and men to remove their hats and hoods inside church. Please could women dress modestly, e.g. not mini skirts or tight sports leggings and vests.

8. **SILENCE**

Let God speak to you and others. When speaking to others in church and purchasing from the piety stall, please lower your voice even if Mass is over.

9. **RECEIVING COMMUNION**

When receiving Holy Communion on your hand, put it immediately into your mouth. NEVER WALK AWAY with the Host in your hand. If you desire to receive Holy Communion on the tongue, please wait at the altar rails.

Thank you for your co-operation and commitment to adhere to these rules. Everyone's good example and encouragement to children is welcome. May the adoption of these codes of behaviour and attitudes bear fruit in our community leading to a benefit to all and a greater witness to Christ. God bless you all for your help and support in so many other ways. It is much appreciated.