

Also at Our Lady of Dolours...

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

A program for children between the ages of 3 and 12 years to come and be with God. This program is delivered in a specially prepared room called the atrium. The atrium is a place of beauty and peace – like a retreat for children. The central aim of this program is to help children develop their own relationship with God. Children come to the atrium once a week for 1½ hours. The program is divided into 3 levels according to age; 3-6 years, 6-9 years and 9-12 years.

We currently run two sessions per week;

**Wednesdays:** 3.30-5.00pm for 6-9 year olds

**Fridays:** 9.30-11.00am for 3-6 year olds.

Enquiries: Angela Hague on xxxxxx

## See you at church!

As Catholics, the Mass is our greatest act of worship and most sacred celebration of community, of what it means to be the Body of Christ. Don't let your children miss out on this central aspect of their faith formation. Come to Mass, get involved, set an example by the practice of your own faith. Do your best as a Catholic parent. And remember, even the 'trying' in a hectic and complex world is a precious gift. See you at church!

## More parish contacts:

- Children's Minister: Angela Hague xxxxx
- Special Religious Education ('Catholic Scripture' in State Schools): Sonia Pleines xxxxx
- Sacraments Minister: Teresa Pirola xxxxx
- Children's Sacramental Program: Tanya Ceravolo xxxxx
- Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Primary School: Helen Chambers, Principal. xxxxx

**Priests:** Fr Vince Casey; Fr Clem Hill: xxxxx

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Our Lady of Dolours

Chatswood

# A Child-Friendly Parish!

## Has this happened to you??

Sunday morning. Your mission: to get the family to Mass. Just as you reach the car, the baby has a spill. Your eldest child grazes her knee and her younger brother has to go to the toilet..now! After two changes of clothes, a toilet stop, bandaids and tears, you arrive at church. By now you are late, parking spots are hard to find. You walk into church, your eldest whining 'I don't wanna go to church!' Mass continues but the kids are restless and you are dead tired after being up all night with the baby. You are anxious about disturbing the parishioner next to you (perhaps you were imagining that disapproving look?) Your spouse is not a Catholic and spends most of the Mass taking the toddler in and out and questioning the whole point of the 'church' exercise, an opinion verbalised on the journey home. Which starts a fight.... At some point you are tempted to say, 'Mass is just too hard!'

Does any of this sound familiar? If so, this leaflet is for you...

Here at **Our Lady of Dolours Chatswood** we are trying to make it a little **easier** and more **joy-filled** for young families to fulfil their Sunday Mass **commitment**. So here is our offering to you...

## A sincere welcome

When it comes to Sunday Mass, we want you there! Whether or not the kids are grumpy or restless we regard your family's presence on Sundays as a gift, never a burden. You belong. Thank you for making the effort to be there.

## A child-friendly liturgy

People like to worship in different ways. At Our Lady of Dolours we have five Sunday Masses, each with its own special character. The 5.30pm Vigil Mass on Saturday evenings and the 10.30am Mass on Sundays are traditional-style liturgies with singing. The 7.30am Sunday Mass is a brief 'no frills' Mass, without music. Our 5.30pm Sunday evening is a youth Mass in a contemporary style. The **9am Family Mass** is oriented to families with young children. The 9am Family Mass includes:

### Kids' Word

Held on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays during school term. The children go to their own Liturgy of the Word. They listen to, reflect on, and have activities based on the Sunday readings at their level. The children are split into 2 groups: Ages 3-6 and 6 plus. Enquiries: Monica Gyoery xxxxx (H).

### Children's Choir

The children's choir sings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month. All children are welcome to join in. Just meet at the choir before Mass. Enquiries: James MacNamara & Charmaine Wan. Email: [old.childrens.choir@gmail.com](mailto:old.childrens.choir@gmail.com)

### Children Readers

The children are rostered to read and prepare the prayers on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. If you love to read why not join the reading roster? Enquiries: Philomena Brandt xxxxx (H)

### Kids' Baptism program (ages 5-11)

A session for children preparing for baptism held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. Enquiries: Teresa Pirola xxxxx.



Can't keep all that in your head? Don't worry. Just turn up for the Family Mass at 9am on Sundays and everything unfolds. For further enquiries contact our Children's Minister, Angela Hague at the Parish Office: 9410 9000

## Facilities

### Church seating:

Some families with young children find it helpful to sit on the Kirk Street side of the church (to the right of the altar as you face it). There is extra space for baby strollers, etc. There is also a small grassy area just outside the Kirk St exit.

## Learning

### Learning about the Mass

We encourage you to teach your child about the meaning of the Mass. Not only is this important for their faith journey, it will help them to enjoy and engage better with the ritual of the Mass. There are children's Mass books available for a few dollars from the Piety store (located in the church foyer, open after all Sunday Masses.) There are also Children's bible stories available for loan from the Parish Library which is located in the church.

### 'Look & Learn' class

On the first Sunday of the month, immediately after 9am Family Mass, we hold a 'Look & Learn' session for the children. This session takes about 10 minutes and we show them practical things like how to genuflect and make other little gestures of our love for Jesus (e.g. sign of the cross, blessing themselves with holy water).

*(continued overleaf)*