

Kids' Word
(during school term)

What is it?

Kids' Word is short for 'Children's Liturgy of the Word'. This is when the children leave the congregation to celebrate and reflect on the Gospel reading in an age appropriate way. The readings are the same as what the adult community is hearing in the church, but adapted to the children's level of understanding. At Our Lady of Dolours, we separate the children into 2 groups; 3-6 year olds and 6 year olds and up. We do this to better cater for the wide age range of children and their stages of faith development. Children under 3 are welcome to join the younger group with a parent. Kids' Word is rostered by parents within the community who lead and support the children during this time.

Why do it?

If you asked any parent why their child attends Kids' Word, you would probably hear:

- 'Because they enjoy it.'
- 'They like coming to mass when Kids' Word is on.'
- 'I can listen to the Word and homily without the children asking when it is time to go home.'

The reality is that attending Mass is part of being a Catholic family. Mass is a celebration of worship for the whole Catholic Family. Kids' Word

is a way of helping children enter into this celebration more fully by catering to their specific age.

Other benefits of Kids' Word is to help form and build peer relationships within the parish community. The children who attend Our Lady of Dolours come from a wide area, many different schools and backgrounds. As a parish we want to create friendships to help build and sustain their faith as they grow. Kids' Word is one way in which we do this.

How to get involved

Just come along to Mass on the 2nd, 4th or 5th Sundays during school term. Your children can join the group when the priest invites them to the front. They will leave with the other children, and return in time for the Liturgy of the Eucharist (communion). Feel free to come along with your children so you know where they are, and to make sure they are settled.

We are always looking for more parent volunteers to support this ministry, so if you think you can help lead or just help the children with craft activities, or for further information, contact our Kids' Word Co-ordinator: Monica Ph xxxxxx (H)

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Family Mass

*Our Lady of Dolours Parish
Chatswood*

As the faith community of Our Lady of Dolours Chatswood, we want to empower parents in their role of bringing their children into relationship with God.

The 9.00am Family Mass each Sunday is central to this mission.

The 9.00am Family Mass is our 'family friendly' Mass. It celebrates in a way that welcomes and supports the involvement of children and young families in the liturgy. Children are encouraged to enter into full participation in the Mass with the whole community. How? Here are some of the opportunities offered each month...



When	What
First Sunday of the month	A rostered family is in charge of co-ordinating the readings, prayers of the faithful and offertory procession. The Children's Choir and musicians sing and play at this Mass. Children are invited to the front for a child-friendly homily
Third Sunday of the month	Children are rostered to read the readings and write and read the Prayers of the Faithful. Children or a family are chosen for the offertory procession. The Children's Choir and musicians sing and play at this Mass. Children are invited to the front for a child friendly homily.
2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays during school term	Children are invited to the front of the church for Kids' Word which is their own special 'Liturgy of the Word'. Kids' Word children return for the offertory procession. Kids' Word children are invited to sit at the front until the priest invites them to join him for the Lord's Prayer
Every Sunday	Children are invited around the altar to recite the Lord's Prayer and return to parents after the Sign of Peace. Children can also help with collections if they wish.

As you can see, there are many ways for families with children to get involved in the 9.00am Family Mass. You may choose just one, or all!

The first step is to just come along and see it all unfold...

Co-ordinating Family Roster (First Sundays)

What is it?

This is a roster of families who wish to be involved in preparing and reading the Sunday readings and the prayers of the faithful at Mass. They also bring up the gifts at the offertory procession when rostered on.

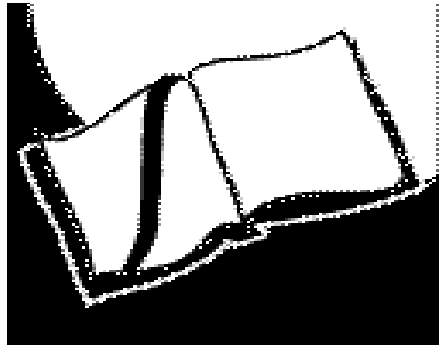
Why do it?

We want to give families the opportunity of being involved in a way which can help them support each others' faith in the home environment. Preparing for this Mass at home, by deciding who will read, who will write prayers, who will do the offertory as well as practising their readings to each other are all ways to support each other.

We also think it is important for the entire community (children and adults alike) to see that children can be involved in the Mass alongside adults. It is not just adults only...nor is it just kids only.

How to get involved

Contact the Children's Minister:
Angela Hague xxxxxx



Children's Reading Roster (Third Sundays)

What is it?

This is a roster of children who read the readings or prepare and read a prayer at the Children's Mass on the 3rd Sunday of each month. When rostered to prepare a prayer, the children are given a prayer topic. The children then read their own prayer at the Mass.

Why do it?

If you love to read, this is a great way to share your gift with the community! We want to encourage children to get involved with the Mass in as many ways as possible, to encourage them to grow in faith and feel a part of the community.

How to get involved

Contact Childrens Reading Co-ordinator:
Philomena Ph xxxxxx (H)

Children's Choir (First & Third Sundays)

What is it?

This is a group of enthusiastic singers and musicians who play music and sing at Mass. The songs chosen are all child friendly and fun!

If you don't like singing or you can't play an instrument, you might like to operate the data projector instead. This person presses the button to change the words to the songs which are displayed on the screen for all to sing along. If you're shy, this job is for you!

Why do it?

If you love to sing, or you can play an instrument, this is a great way to share your gift with the community! We want to encourage children to get involved with the Mass in as many ways as possible, to encourage them to grow in faith and feel a part of the community.

How to get involved

To sing: Just come along to the choir area before mass begins and ask to join in. Everyone is welcome.

To play an instrument, join the data projector roster, or for further information, contact the Music Minister:
Charmaine xxxxxx



Young Collectors

What is it?

This is taking a basket around for people to place their offering money into. You will be assigned one small section of the church. When you have passed the basket around your section, you just take it to the foyer where the co-ordinator will be waiting to take the money. You can then return to your seat.

Why do it?

If you are shy, or don't like to read or sing, this is a great way to get up and do something during Mass...and you aren't noticed by everyone! You get to walk around TWICE without getting into trouble from mum and dad!

How to get involved

Just come to the foyer of the church before Mass and look for the man with the baskets. Ask him if you can help today. They are always keen for willing helpers!