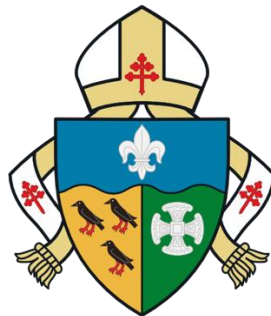


St Bartholomew's Norbury Children's Liturgy 2023



Archdiocese of Southwark

Children's Liturgy

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Children's Liturgy Catechist and supporting the young people of our parish. This document is intended to give you useful information regarding the role of a catechist, the support you will receive and the expectations the parish has of all catechists.

What is involved in the classes?

As a new volunteer you will usually work with a more experienced leader who will help and support you. There must always be at least two leaders in attendance with the children. Children's Liturgy Leaders must be DBS checked by Archdiocese of Southwark. A DBS certificate from another institution is not acceptable.

A general guide for minimum supervision ratios provided by the Department for Education (DfE) is:

- one adult leader for every 4 children aged 2-3 years;
- one adult leader for every 6 children aged 4-8 years;

When do the classes take place?

Classes take place in the first part of the 10am Sunday Mass during term time. The children are invited by the priest at the start of the service to come to the altar. The Children's Liturgy Leader will then lead the children to the Sacristy.

During the session the children will be presented with the Liturgy of the Word in a form that is appropriate to their level of understanding. The children will hear the Gospel story; this will be followed by open questions to help with their understanding; finally they will join in with singing and prayers, and finish with a creative activity relevant to the Liturgy.

The children return to the church during the offertory collection and process to the altar to show the priest what they have learnt through their activity. There is a Children's Liturgy pinboard, which is updated weekly, to display the children's work for the whole parish to see.

What is the target age range for Children's Liturgy?

- Group A for ages 3-5, School Nursery age to Reception age.
- Group B for ages 5-7, Year 1 and Year 2.

Children in Year 3 are encouraged to stay in church to support their learning leading up to their First Holy Communion

What is the position regarding safeguarding if parents wish to accompany their children to Children's Liturgy?

Parents are not encouraged to attend with their child unless there is a specific need which should be discussed in advance with the Children's Liturgy lead coordinator.

How do I become a Children's Liturgy Catechist?

1. Complete a Registration Form, including two character references.
2. Read a copy of the safeguarding policy.
3. Return the form to Fr Deo or to the parish Safeguarding Lead for a discussion about the role.
4. DBS check:
 - a) A link will be sent to complete the first stage of the process.
 - b) Meet the Safeguarding Lead to have your forms and ID verified.
 - c) A second link will be sent to upload the forms online.
 - d) The Diocese Safeguarding Team will complete the DBS check.
 - e) A certificate will be sent to successful applicants.
 - f) A final link will be sent to register your certificate with the DBS Update Service.¹
5. The Safeguarding Lead will send you a letter and form to sign to welcome you onto the Children's Liturgy Team.

What Resources are available to help me?

The parish has plenty of resources to assist with the planning of the sessions. There are also various online resources:

<https://cafod.org.uk>Children-s-Liturgy>

This free resource contains a weekly Children's Liturgy page with prayers, songs and questions to help the children reflect on the Gospel and it may be freely adapted by CL leaders.

<https://rcdow.org.uk>

The Diocese of Westminster has an excellent website resource including comprehensive background information on Children's Liturgy, and weekly sheets

<https://liturgyoffice.org.uk>

An excellent reference *Liturgy of the Word with Children*, from the Liturgy Office, Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales.

¹ Please note you only have 19 days to do this. After three years, this DBS Update Service will notify you that another check is required. (This re-check will be much faster.) If you miss the deadline, you will need to repeat Steps 1-4 yourself after the three-year period.

Children's Liturgy Template

Introduction

The introduction should refer to the key points of the Gospel of the day.

Make the Sign of the Cross

It's a sign of the love that God has for us, for young children especially, it helps to demonstrate and practice how to do this correctly.

Penitential Act

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week and if they have been kind to each other, helpful to parents, brothers, sisters, listened to their teachers etc. Lead the children in singing a song.

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel verse for the current week

"A reading from the Holy Gospel according to N"

Explain and demonstrate - Make three crosses, one on your forehead, one on your lips, one on your heart as we say together: "Glory to You, O Lord".

At the end of the Gospel respond: "Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ".

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

Use open questions to encourage discussion and allow the children to say what they have understood from the Word of God. What? Where? How? Why?

Activity/picture should be available to colour to take away. Use the relevant CL resource for ideas. Some resources have sheets which can be photocopied with pictures for colouring. Any activity undertaken must highlight and reinforce the Gospel message and should not be a distraction from it.

Closing Prayer

There are options for this for each date in the relevant CL resource books or you may compose your own prayer relevant to the day's Gospel.

End prayer with an 'Amen'

Select four volunteers to carry the display board during the procession.