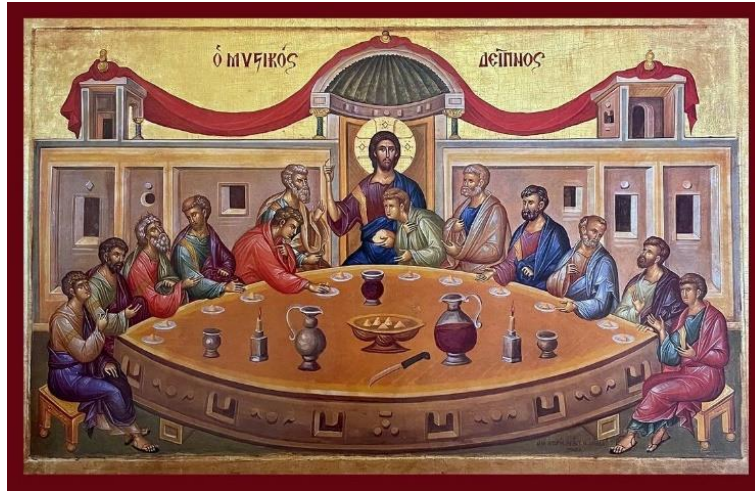


Welcome to Mass at St Bartholomew's

We hope the brief points below will help you enjoy celebrating Mass with us



- During Mass we meet Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and worship together and we hope you will all enjoy the quiet and prayerful atmosphere.
- You are welcome to arrive a few minutes before the service starts so that you can spend a short moment in quiet prayer.
- Blessing ourselves with holy water by making the Sign of the Cross with it on our fingertips when we enter and leave the church is a reminder of our Baptism and that we belong to God's family. Genuflecting (or bowing if we are unable to) towards the tabernacle before taking our seats, and when leaving at the end of Mass, acknowledges Jesus's true presence there. We bow to the Crucifix when moving about the church during Mass. When crossing before the tabernacle we always genuflect as a sign of respect for the True Presence.
- Showing respect for this great Sacrament includes abstaining from any food or drink, except for water, for at least one hour beforehand. The elderly, the infirm, and those who care for them can receive the Most Holy Eucharist even if they have eaten something within the preceding hour.
- Children are welcome at all our Masses. Please do not worry if your children sometimes find it difficult to remain quiet, or if you ever need to step out to the porch area to take a moment to help your child settle.
- To help maintain an orderly flow, people in the two central blocks of pews receive Holy Communion first, and those sitting in the side altars are kindly asked to go to the back of the church to join the central aisle queue from there. If you are in the Retro Chapel behind the altar, an Extraordinary Minister will bring communion to you.
- We consume the Communion Host before leaving the front of the altar and returning to our places to kneel and pray.
- If you aren't Catholic, or do not wish to receive Communion, you are most welcome to receive a blessing from the Priest or the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. To do so, simply come forward to the altar with your arms crossed over your chest.