



# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

# Our Church



Information for Parents and Family Members

2017



Learning as a Community

## The Sacred Objects

Many sacred objects inside the church help us to focus and to understand what is happening in the sacred space. Some of these sacred objects are outlined below:

**The Altar** – It is a table that is central in the church building. Jesus gathered around a table with his friends to share a meal and established the Holy Eucharist, we remember and do the same each Sunday at mass.

**Other Sacred Vessels** – On the altar during mass the other sacred vessels are used to hold the wine and bread of Eucharist. These items include the **Ciborium**, the **Chalice**, the **Paten** and the **Cruets**.

**The Tabernacle** – Beside the altar is the tabernacle. It is a small cupboard, which is usually ornately decorated. This is where bread that has been consecrated at mass is kept in the **ciborium**.

**Sanctuary Lamp** – Beside the tabernacle there is usually a lamp burning. This is a special sign that Jesus is still present in the Holy Eucharist.

**The Lectionary** – Is the name given to the book of Scripture. It is what the readings at mass are read from.

**Candles** – All candles used in the church represent the light of Jesus. The candles on the altar remind us that Jesus is the light of the world and that he remains here with us today.

**Paschal Candle** – This candle is a tall special candle on a stand. It is a decorated candle and is first used each year at Easter time when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.



## Other Symbols in our Church

If you take the time to look at our Church building you will notice other statues and objects in the sacred space. Here is an outline of a few things you may see:

**Stations of the Cross** – There are 14 pictures around the church, each telling part of the story of the final journey of Jesus to Easter. During Lent we move through the stations to remind us of Jesus' sacrifice and final journey for us.



**Statue of Mary** – Mary is an important person in our Catholic church and in the life of Jesus. Many Catholics intercede to Mary, and there are many feast days in the Church in her honour.

**Statue of Jesus – The Sacred Heart** – The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is widely practiced in the Catholic Church. It connects Jesus Christ's physical heart as the representation of his divine love for humanity. The heart will often be encircled by a crown of thorns, and be bleeding, this allude to the manner of Jesus' death. The feast of the Sacred Heart is celebrated 19 days after Pentecost each year.



**Statue of St. Joseph** – Our church is named for St. Joseph, Jesus' father on earth. Joseph was a hard worker, who loved and cared for Mary and Jesus. He is the patron saint of workers and of the whole Catholic Church.

**Baptismal Font** – This large container is used for baptisms. When someone is being baptised this font is filled with water that has been blessed.



**Holy Water Font** - This is filled with Holy Water which we use to bless ourselves as we enter the Church. When we do this we are reconnecting with the experience of receiving the sacrament of baptism. By making this reconnection, the Church invites us to thank God, to remind ourselves of our dignity as beloved children of God, and to take comfort in knowing that we truly are members of this divine family, members of the Body of Christ.

## Liturgical Seasons

The seasons of the liturgical year are:

**Advent** – a period covering the 4 Sundays before Christmas during which we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth and anticipate his coming again at the end of time. The liturgical colour for Advent is violet.

**Christmas** – the season of Christmas celebrates Christ's birth and early manifestations. It runs from 25th December to until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord on the Sunday after 6th January. The liturgical colour for the Christmas season is white.

**Lent** – the 6-week time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and finishes on the evening of Holy Thursday. The liturgical colour for Lent is violet.

**Easter** – the heart of the liturgical year is the Easter Triduum (three days) celebrated from the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday evening. The Easter Vigil is the high-point of the celebration. The joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection continues for the 50 day Easter season from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. The liturgical colour for Easter is white.

Apart from these seasons, there are 33 or 34 weeks of the year that do not celebrate a particular aspect of the mystery of Christ but are devoted to the mystery of Christ in all its aspects. This period of the Church calendar is called **Ordinary Time** because the weeks are numbered in order. The liturgical colour for Ordinary Time is green.

### COLOURS OF THE LITURGICAL SEASONS

**Advent** is the first season of the Church year. It is a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus. The colour used during Advent is **violet**.

**Christmas** celebrates the birth of Jesus. During the Christmas season, **white** vestments are worn.

**Lent** is a time of preparation and penance when Catholics are called to turn back to God and to believe the Good News. **Violet** is the colour for Lent.

**Easter** celebrates the resurrection of Jesus and is a season of great joy and gladness. **White** or **gold** vestments are worn.

**Ordinary time** is a long period of time from Pentecost up to Advent. **Green** is the colour for ordinary time.

**Pentecost** celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles. **Red** vestments are worn for Pentecost Sunday.

The Church year is divided into several seasons, and each season has a focus on important events in the life of Jesus and the Church. Each liturgical season also has a special colour for the vestments worn by the priest.

### THE SACRED SYMBOLS

# The Order of the Mass

The Catholic Mass is broken down into five main sections. These sections are outlined below:

## 1. We Gather

We gather to give thanks and praise to God. There is a gathering song and procession. We make the sign of the cross, and are greeted by the priest. We are called upon to have a change of heart, as we reflect on the way we live in the **penitential rite**. We pray the song of praise – **The Gloria**. This section ends with the **opening prayer**.

## 2. We Listen

We listen to God's word in the bible. The **Liturgy of the Word** contains the readings (first reading, second reading and Gospel), responses, Gospel Acclamation, homily, our **profession of faith** (Creed) and the Prayers of the faithful.

## 3. We Thank

We give thanks for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The **Liturgy of the Eucharist** contains the offertory procession, the **Eucharistic Prayer**, the Our Father and the sign of peace (shaking of hands).

## 4. We Receive

We receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ in Communion. We go forward together to receive Communion. We then have time for silent prayer, before a prayer after communion is said by the priest.

## 5. We Go

We go out to be peacemakers and hope givers. The priest blesses us, and commissions us to go out and give glory to God in the way we behave towards others.

# Catholic Prayers

## Sign of the Cross

Christians used to make the sign of the cross in order to identify themselves to other Christians. The sign of the cross represents Christ. Some believers, while making the sign of the cross say to themselves: open mind (when they touch their forehead), open heart (when they touch their chest) and open arms (when they touch their shoulders). The sign of the cross symbolizes three persons in one God: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

## Amen

Why do we say "Amen" at the end of a prayer?

Saying "Amen" at the end of a prayer states our affirmation that what was just said is true and that we are in agreement with the prayer.

## Our Father

Our Father, Who art in Heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.



## Hail Mary

**Hail Mary,  
Full of grace,  
The Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,**

(Lift your right hand pointing to the sky.)  
(Lift your left hand pointing to the sky.)  
(Bring your hands down folded near your heart.)  
(Take your right hand and sweep it across your body  
pointing to all the girls in the group around you.)

**And blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus.**

(Pretend you are rocking a baby in your arms.)

**Holy Mary,  
Mother of God,  
Pray for us sinners,  
Now**

(Lift your right hand pointing to the sky.)  
(Lift your left hand pointing to the sky.)  
(Bring your hands down folded near your heart.)  
(Point down to the ground with both hands.)

**And at the hour of our death.  
Amen.**

(Point to a pretend watch on your wrist.)  
(Bring hands together folded near your heart.)

## More Information

The following websites may provide you with further reading and background information.

**Archdiocese of Brisbane** - <http://www.bne.catholic.net.au/>

**Brisbane Catholic Education** - <http://www.bne.catholic.edu.au/>

**St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School** - <http://www.stjosephsgayndah.qld.edu.au/>

**Together at One Altar** - <http://www.togetheratonealtar.catholic.edu.au/>