

Liturgy is the praise and worship of God. The purpose of adapting liturgy for children is to lead them into full, conscious and active participation in the liturgy of the parish.

The main aim of Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) is to explain and explore the Gospel and elements of the Catholic faith in a way that the children can understand and enjoy.



The CLOW team at St Catharine's is made up of about 20 parishioners who take turns to lead the two groups each Sunday at 9.30 Mass (not during school holidays). All have either been CRB cleared or are in the process of doing so.

Each session is a little different as each liturgist has his/her own style of presentation. A good deal of planning, preparation, and, sometimes, nerves of steel is required to deliver the session to large groups of young, eager but distractible minds!

All children are welcome and it is up to the parents to decide at what age they should stay in Mass. Older children attending (10+) may be asked to assist the Liturgists where necessary.

The children leave the church before the penitential rite, in procession, following a child carrying the Liturgy Book. They return to the church in time for the Offertory

Pre-school children go into the church hall. Those of school going age cross Park Rd through a crossing patrol to the Christchurch Hall.

If your child is fairly close in age to the cut off point, you can choose which group you think they will feel more comfortable in. Also, if you don't want to split families, you can choose which group you would like the family to attend.

Both groups will usually include:

- *An Introduction***
- *Welcome to new members***
- *Time to say 'sorry'***
- *Singing of the Gloria and Alleluia***
- *Presentation of the Gospel in some form e.g. reading, watching a video, play acting, puppets***
- *Discussion of the message of the Gospel and possibly an activity on the theme of the Gospel.***
- *Hymns may be sung***
- *Closing prayer.***

The above will be presented in an age-appropriate way.



Sometimes one of the other readings for that Sunday may be focused on or in the case of the toddler group, another bible story may be presented.

A symbol of the theme of the session may be taken up, by the children, at the Offertory, and some feedback given to the congregation.

One of the benefits of Children's Liturgy is that it gives parents in church the chance to listen to the Word of God and the sermon in relative peace and quiet.

Parents of Children attending the school going age group shouldn't need to accompany their children.

You can still assist the liturgists by:

- Reinforcing what has been covered in the session by showing an interest in what your child has learnt and made.
- Encouraging your child to sit quietly and listen attentively in CLOW.
- Not allowing them to take any toys or other distractions into the hall.



Parents of Children attending the pre-school group may want to accompany their child to help supervise them.



If you do attend:

- Please encourage your child to sit quietly and listen attentively – within reason – we do know that some of the children are too young to do so.
- Please set a good example by joining in and helping with the singing and activities. This is best done by sitting on the floor with your child. Please don't use this time to chat to other parents!
- Please help the children get back into Mass in a quiet, orderly fashion in time for the Offertory. It is very important that there is no talking by children or parents outside church or in the porch before going back into mass.

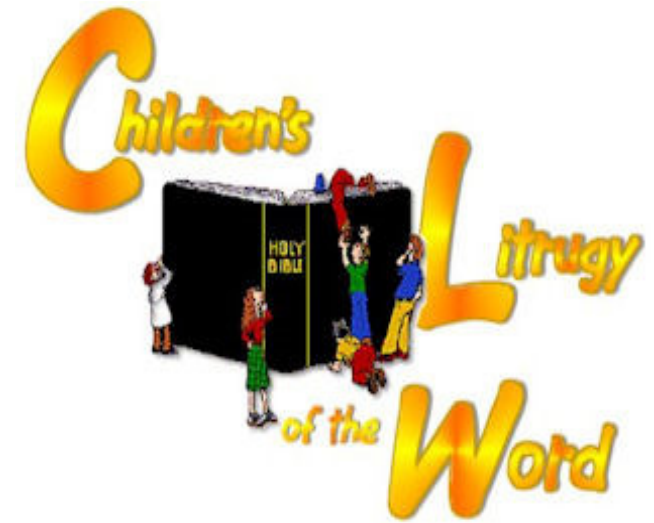
There are more formal ways that you could help the CLOW team:

- *Join our team and present liturgy sessions with a partner (you will need to be CRB checked for this)
- *Help with the crossing patrol
- *Help with fundraising
- *Help with special occasions like the Good Friday Liturgy and the Christmas Eve Children's Mass.

We would welcome any suggestions about improving any aspect of CLOW.

If you have any queries or suggestions please speak to any of the Children's Liturgists

Thank you for taking the time to read this!



St Catharine's
Catholic
Church
Frome

