

Speaking to Children about Jesus in the Mass.

Below is a suggested discussion which you might like to have with Children to help them understand the parts of the Mass and that Jesus is present in all parts of the Mass.

This does not have to be done in one session this can be done over a number of discussions with the children, however, remind the Children of what you have previously discussed.

Suggested text is in black and notes in red.

Let's get started.....

We have all listened to some stories from our Bible, we have played some games and puzzles so now let's see what we all can remember.

Who can tell me what they know about Jesus? **Let the children speak about Jesus for a little while and correct any errors in a positive and supportive way.**

I want you to think now about a group we all belong to can you think of what that group might be? **The Children may well think about school groups, sports or music groups but give time to see if anyone says the Church, if not then encourage them to think about one that we might go to with our parents etc.**

When church has been identified then move on.

Ok so we are all in a Church Group, who else is in this group with us? **Allow them to mention family, friends, Priests, Religious, Deacons and hopefully Jesus – also explain that we are part of a very large Church community that meet in lots of places across the world.**

Ok so we go to Church with our Family, Friends, Jesus etc so now think about what happens when you come into the Church. What do we do first – **You are trying to tease out things like blessing ourselves (Like at our Baptism we are putting on Christ) Saying Hello to each other perhaps – especially Jesus and that is why we genuflect (this may be better understood as kneeling at this age) then the Priest will say Hello to us all and Welcome us with an opening prayer and asks us to pray with him just like Jesus called His disciples and followers to pray.**

So Boys and Girls, we have Blessed ourselves, we have said hello to each other and to Jesus, the priest has welcomed us so what happens now – **(Some children will not be familiar with this time, particularly if they normally leave for Children's Liturgy) What you are seeking is that you can help children to understand that this is the Word of God being spoken at the Liturgy of the Word, explain that this is when we are reminded of what Jesus done and where the Priest or Deacon try to help us by explaining how we can do what Jesus asked us in our world today.**

Can any of you remember some of the things Jesus told us about how he wanted us to live? **Let the children talk about being kind to each other, loving each other, telling people about Jesus.**

After some time then reinforce the message by asking what they can remember about the Good Samaritan passage.

After the readings there is another thing that happens - we pray – we pray for lots of different things that people need. What things do you think it would be good to pray for? **Allow some time for children to talk about what we should pray for, ask them if there was any story where they learned about Jesus praying (thinking of garden of gethsemane.) Perhaps conclude by praying a simple prayer for everything that the children have suggested.**

So, boys and girls, we have been welcomed to the Church, then we hear about Jesus in the Word of the Mass and now what do you think happens? **Allow them to give some answers then encourage them to think about something that Jesus asked us to do at the last supper. Eventually remind them about the last supper if they haven't mentioned it.**

So now you have been excellent we know about the welcome, the word and now we are doing what Jesus told us to do. We are remembering Him in a special way and asking Jesus to come down and be with us. So, the Priest has some Bread and Wine, just like Jesus had when He had a meal with His friends. Now we are gathered with our family and friends and our group, and the Priest is going to ask Jesus to turn the Bread and Wine into what? **Ideally you are looking for some Child to say Holy Communion or Eucharist however it is unlikely some if you get an answer of Jesus then accept it and explain Eucharist.**

So, the Priest is asking Jesus to turn the Bread and Wine into Jesus, and we call this Eucharist or Holy Communion. This is a very special gift that Jesus is doing for us all. To do this the Priest prays to Jesus and follows Jesus' instructions, remember Jesus Blessed and Broke bread at the Last Supper and said that the Bread was Him. **Explain to children that it is important that people know lots about Jesus before they can receive Jesus in Holy Communion so it is important that they keep learning about Jesus so that when they make their First Holy Communion, they will know all about Him.**

The Priest along with some other people who are helpers, called Eucharistic Ministers now go and help the Priest give Jesus to people. This is part of the Mission of the Eucharistic Ministers. At this time of the Mass Jesus is sharing Himself with everyone.

Can you think of other people who helped Jesus with his Mission? **You will be looking for Apostles or Disciples or Family.**

After Holy Communion we come to almost the end of the Mass when the Priest will go to the Lectern and bless people, then the Priest or Deacon will give a message saying something like "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord" what do you think this means? **The idea is that Children can take the link this idea of announcing the Gospel to their Mission. It is unlikely to happen exactly as you would like so continue.**

The Priest or Deacon is asking us to live like Jesus would want us to, isn't he? He is sending us out on Mission. Can any of you remember how we live out our mission, what things do we have to do? **Give time to allow them to answer, you might give them one idea and they will keep going. After a while continue....**

I can't quite remember; I know I had a mission but where did I get it. **Here guide children to recalling their mission was through their Baptism. Remind them that just as Jesus was Baptised by John before he began His mission, we are now Baptised so that we can go on our Mission which is to live like Jesus and follow his teaching.**

