

COMMUNION RITE

PURPOSE:

COMING TO THE ALTAR AS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

- Pray the OUR FATHER slowly and prayerfully
- Give each other the sign of peace and notice the action in the breaking of the bread
- To hear the invitation to Communion and respond

WAYS OF TAKING PART

- Gather children in a big circle around the altar to say the Our Father together
- Send them out to their families to take the peace from the altar
- Learn a simple Lamb of God for singing—repeat often
- Invite children to take part prayerfully in the procession for Communion
- Draw everyone together in silence through a short communion reflection



DISMISSAL

- Before the dismissal children need to be reminded of the Big Message for today
- Express the connection with liturgy and life by giving a take home thought or action to do this week

EXPERIENCE OF FAMILY MASS



INTRODUCTORY RITES

PURPOSE: TO GATHER

- We take on the form of a community
- We prepare ourselves to listen to God's word
- We move from outside towards a focus on prayer

POSSIBLE WAYS OF TAKING PART:

- ◆ Settling into prayer with appropriate music five minutes before Mass
- ◆ Taking part in Welcoming Ministry
- ◆ Use of the opening Procession (book of the Gospels)
- ◆ Rich use of symbols—incense of altar
- ◆ Sprinkling Rite - very appropriate in Lent
- ◆ Sung Gloria with a simple refrain — Eastertide

One or more of these introductory elements is completed by the **OPENING PRAYER.**

The Opening Prayer is an opportunity to gather everyone together in a focused way once more.

WORD OF GOD

PURPOSE: TO HEAR GOD

SPEAKING TO US

- We sit in prayerful listening
- We hear every word that is proclaimed
- We respond to God's word
- We connect this with our lives as Christians



WAYS OF TAKING PART:

- ◆ Introductory comments
- ◆ Sharing of readings among ministers
- ◆ Selection of readings
- ◆ Use of silence between readings
- ◆ Priority of singing psalm and Gospel acclamation
- ◆ Use of visual PPT presentation with words and or images
- ◆ Dialogue homily with families
- ◆ Apostles Creed

The emphasis here should be on quality rather than quantity.

Less is more.

Silence speaks too.....

Simple music for psalm and acclamation really helpful.

Avoid show and tell.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

PURPOSE: TO GIVE PRAISE & THANKS TO GOD and TO REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US

- To notice the actions
- To take part in responding
- To realise the importance of thanking and praising
- To remember the story of how Jesus gave his life for us

WAYS OF TAKING PART:

- ◆ Bringing forward the gifts
- ◆ Setting the table
- ◆ Singing responses
- ◆ Standing and kneeling appropriately
- ◆ Use of Children's Eucharistic prayers*
- ◆ Watching the actions of the priest as they happen



THERE ARE THREE EUCHARISTIC PRAYERS SPECIFICALLY FOR USE WITH CHILDREN, No. 3 is for EASTER.