

Family Prayer

This pattern of prayer might be used for family prayer either just before or at bed time.

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All make the sign of the Cross and say: **Amen.***

Leader: At the end of this day let's spend a moment thinking quietly about all that has happened today — the things that have happened here at home; the things that happened at school; the things that happened at....

From all of this is there something good that we want to thank God for?

Invite each person to name one thing, but do not insist. It is enough if you yourself are able to name one thing.

And from all that has happened is there anything that we want to say sorry to God or to one another for?

Invite each person to name one thing, but do not insist. It is enough if you yourself are able to name one thing.

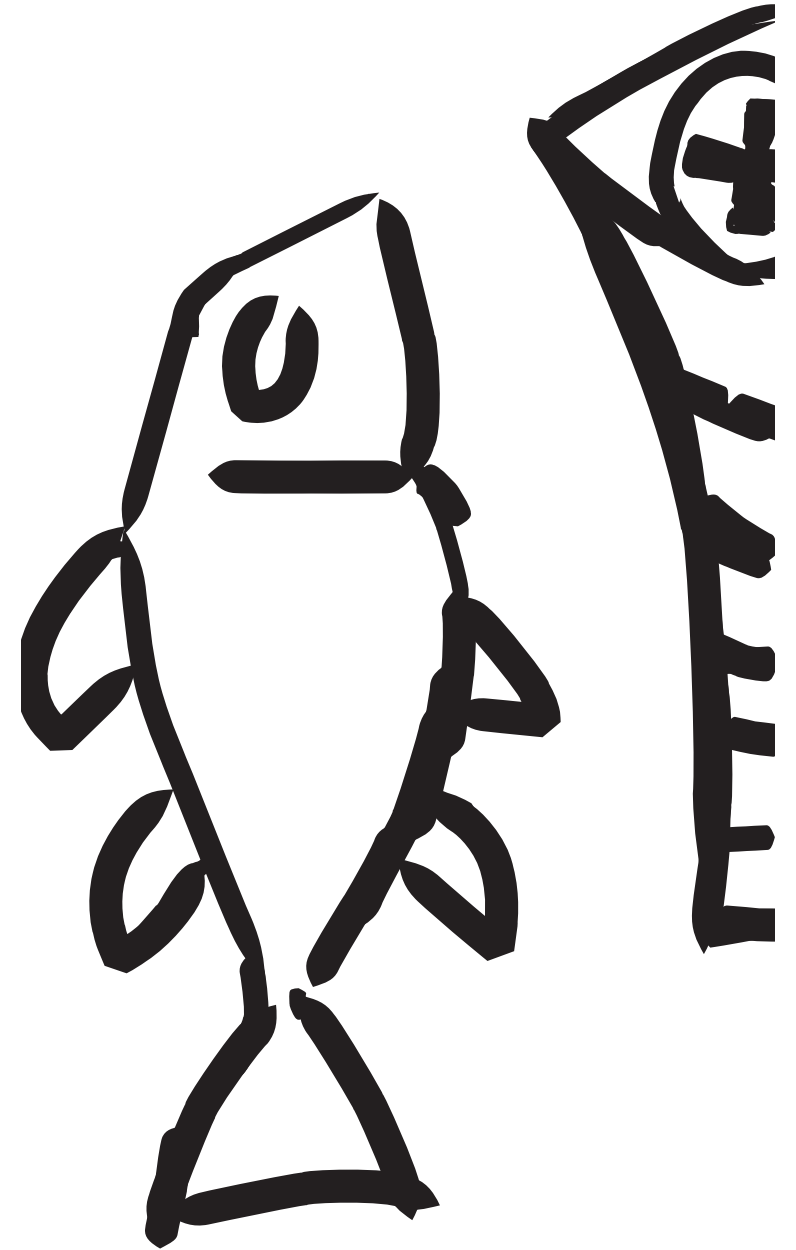
At the end of this time let all say together:

Save us Lord while we are awake
Protect us while we sleep
that we might keep watch with Christ
and rest with him in peace. Amen .

Leader: May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
May he look upon you with kindness
and give you his peace..

May almighty God bless us,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

In Communion with Christ 6. Mission



Looking at the Mass

Introductory Rites

Liturgy of the Word

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Concluding Rite

Announcements

Blessing

Dismissal

After the Communion Rite, the Mass closes with a brief Concluding Rite. Its purpose is to send the people forth to put into effect in their daily lives the Paschal Mystery and the unity in Christ which they have celebrated. They are given a sense of abiding mission, which calls them to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.

Just as the introductory comments by the priest at the beginning of the celebration may help the assembly to a better appreciation and experience of the mysteries celebrated in the Eucharist, so also the pastoral announcements at the end may help the people make the transition from worship into renewed Christian witness in society. They should help people become aware of the faith life and pastoral activity of the community and invite participation in the ongoing work of the Church.

The Dismissal sends the members of the congregation forth to praise and bless the Lord in the midst of their

In Communion with Christ

Go in peace

At the end of our celebration we are sent forth. The word 'Mass' derives from this dismissal *Ite, missa est*. We come to Mass so that, renewed by Christ in his word and in his body and blood, we can be sent forth to be Christ in the world once more.

How might we help the children, and ourselves, remember what we received at Mass and how it connects with our lives?

An excellent place to start would be having a conversation together on the way home from Mass about what we have experienced. What can we remember from the readings — a story or a phrase? If the children participate in a Liturgy of Word with Children it is an opportunity to compare notes. Was there a particular piece of music you enjoyed – perhaps a psalm response that spoke to you. Was there anything different about this week's celebration: sprinkling with water, a visit by the bishop. As always this is not meant as a test but a sharing of faith. Do not expect answers to every question but have your own thoughts ready.

This leaflet for parents of young families is one a series of resources produced by the Liturgy Office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to assist parishes reflect on their celebration of the Eucharist in the light of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*. Celebrating the Mass and Leaflet © 2005 Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Other resources are available from www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources

To love and serve the Lord

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

The text of this Memorial Acclamation is taken from St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. It reminds us of the close relationship between Communion and Mission.

Our reception of communion is more than an act of faith in receiving Christ, who died and rose again for us, it is an act of commitment as well. To proclaim Christ. As we know from the Liturgy of the Word, proclamation is more than just saying the words, it is about living them. It is about letting these words shape our lives.

Helped by the gift of Christ received afresh at Sunday Mass we are asked to be Christ to others in the week that lies ahead. We are invited to let Christ be present to others through our words and our actions. And there is another challenge too: can we recognise Christ himself in those we meet?

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daily responsibilities.

For Mass to be truly authentic it must give expression to the common life of the gathered community; the implication being that there is a common life to draw upon. The idea of strangers gathering for Eucharist, and remaining strangers thereafter, does not sit easily with the Gospel message.

Active participation in the Eucharist is a transforming experience. In our prayers, and that of the whole Church, we seek the transformation not only of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, but that the same Spirit transforms us also into the Body of Christ. But it does not end here...

Authentic Catholic spirituality is centred on communal celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ so that we may go out into the world to live that mystery, refreshed and restored as agents of God's love. The Christian is called into a broken world to witness to and work for the coming of the Kingdom of God. The Eucharist must feed those who celebrate: for their work in the healing of relationships, in the promotion of peace and justice, and in the proclamation of the Good News.

Celebrating the Mass 14–17,
217–225