

Mass Etiquette

A few pointers - please do not be offended. We do not intend to offend anybody.

Fast before Mass. It is Church law that one fasts for at least 1 hour before receiving Holy Communion. Water & medicine can be consumed. The purpose is to help us prepare to receive Jesus in the Eucharist.

Men take your hats off. It is impolite for a man to wear a hat in church.

Don't chew gum in church. It breaks your fast, is distracting and impolite.

Cross yourself with Holy Water on entering & leaving the church. This is a reminder of our Baptism which made us members of Christ's Church.

Dress modestly and appropriately.

Show up at least a few minutes early. If for any reason you're late then try to sit at the back so you don't disturb others.

Mobile phones should never be used during Mass. The only exceptions are emergencies!

If it is necessary to use one please walk out of church to do so. Please try to be discreet if using the phone for readings or prayers.

Genuflect towards the Tabernacle when entering or leaving church. If you are physically unable to genuflect then a bow is sufficient. If you pass in front of the altar or tabernacle during Mass then you should bow reverently.

Please be quiet while in church. Once you are in church it is not the time or place to chat with those around you. If you must talk then do so as quietly and briefly as possible. Remember your conversation may disturb others so Sssshhhhhhhh.

Children

Parents - all children are always welcome in church but please prevent your young children running around during Mass especially near the candle racks. It would be dreadful if there were to be an accident and someone got burned. It is natural for them to be curious and to want to look around but please try to make sure they walk rather than run. Also, if they are making a lot of noise please take them outside for a few minutes to calm them down. Perhaps it would be a good idea to provide them with a book to look at or paper and crayons to keep them occupied during the service.

Prepare your offering before Mass. Keeping the basket while you get your purse/wallet out can sometimes become quite disruptive. Please prepare for the offering beforehand.

Respect other people's boundaries. You might want to hold hands to pray; other people might not. They might be sick and not want to shake hands during the Peace. Do not make judgments about them.

Bow before receiving Holy Communion. Show your respect with a bow of the head.

Communion. This is supposed to be a procession - not a free-for-all! So when coming forward to take Communion please allow the back rows to come forward first, the next pews following and so on until the front pews come up.

Remember - "The last will be first and the first will be last".

Please also return to your seat down the side aisles, round the back and down the centre aisle. This avoids people going "against the tide" and causing chaos in the centre aisle.

To remind you - to receive Communion from an Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister is just as valid as receiving it from a priest.

Do not receive from the chalice if you are sick. This is an act of charity so that you do not pass germs on to others.

Do not leave early. Please stay to the end of the recession. While there are exceptions to this, most who leave early do not need to and ought not to.

Leave quietly. It's great to chat to friends but please wait until you are outside the church so you won't disturb those who want to stay and pray.