

South East Edinburgh Cluster
St Catherine of Alexandria
St Gregory the Great
St John Vianney

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"Anyone who welcomes a little child
like this in my name welcomes me"

Matthew 18:5

The three parishes of St Catherine of Alexandria, St Gregory the Great and St John Vianney believe that our children enrich our community.

The Children's Liturgy of the Word helps them to celebrate the Word of God as part of the Sunday Eucharist, but in a separate space. We follow the Church's cycle of readings in the same way as the adult liturgy of the word. Our worship includes readings, sharing through discussion, music, prayer and activities, at a level that aims to bring the Gospel message alive for our children.

Members of the Children's Liturgy Team participate as a catechist or helper. Being a member of the team provides an opportunity to play a part in enabling our children to grow in their understanding and appreciation of the Liturgy of the Word.

What we do:

- Prepare the sacred space for Children's Liturgy
- Welcome the children
- Celebrate and share the Word of God with them
- Enable them to understand the symbols and gestures used during the Liturgy of the Word
- Encourage reflection and discussion as a group

In addition a Children's Liturgy Catechist prepares the Liturgy in advance

How we are supported:

- Being an observer for a few weeks to become familiar with the Children's Liturgy
- Partnering an experienced Children's Liturgy leader until we are confident in leading Children's Liturgy, if a catechist
- Working with another Children's Liturgy Team member at all times
- Being given access to resources for each Liturgical year
- Attending occasional Diocesan meetings to share ideas and best practice

- Attending Parish/Cluster meetings to share practice and plan liturgy
- Receiving peer support
- Receiving support from the Parish Coordinator and Parish Priest
- Receiving help to comply with the Diocesan Child & Adult at Risk Protection process and Disclosure Scotland

Our commitment includes:

- Arriving at church 20 minutes before Mass begins to set up the sacred space for Children's Liturgy, in rotation
- Staying after Mass for a short time to clear up any materials left behind
- Attending parish/cluster meetings about 3 times a year for 1 to 2 hours
- Arranging a replacement if we cannot attend when it is our turn on the rota
- Being a Children's Liturgy Catechist or Helper initially for 6 months and then reviewing our commitment with the Parish Children's Liturgy Coordinator
- Attending Child & Adult at Risk Protection Awareness training.

In addition a Children's Liturgy Catechist commits to:

- Approximately 1 to 2 hours preparing the Liturgy when it is our turn to lead, in rotation with the other Children's Liturgy Catechists
- Attending Diocesan meetings that last around 2 hours in the evening or on a Saturday once a year

A Children's Liturgy Team Member is:

- Keen to help our children's faith come alive and be fun
- 16 years of age or over
- Approachable
- Patient with children
- Adaptable
- Observant
- Supportive of other team members
- Open to deepening his or her own faith

Being a Children's Liturgy Catechist or Helper is one of the ways we can serve one another and our church community.

As members of the Children's Liturgy Team, we have found that the experience has deepened our knowledge and understanding of our Faith.

St Paul encourages us, as he did the early Christians, to serve one another and to use the gifts and talents we have all been given:

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

1 Cor 12₄₋₇

If you would like further information please contact:

Children's Liturgy Co-ordinators

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Version 1.1 - Description – January 2011 (*For review January 2012*)