

## **How do I share the Catholic Faith with My Young Children ?**

It used to be that parents had a lot of help sharing the Catholic Faith with their children: Catholic Schools, Churches, Catholic neighbours, extended family members, even films and television programmes helped to create an equal playing field ... where all understood the same rules and followed the same agreed upon practices.

However, our world has changed, and we do not have all of these built in supports.

When God decided to become a Person and share His message directly with us, Jesus gave us our mission: to share God's message far and wide. We are His Church, and this is our mission. This is your mission: to share God's message with your child.

Being connected to a Faith Community is important and we need to give and receive support from others. So how do we do that?

### **Tell your child stories about God**


- Buy an illustrated children's Bible ( Old and New Testament) and tell your child stories about God..... about the life of Jesus .... about the Holy Spirit.
- Talk about how God chose messengers to give His message to people. (These are the stories in the Old Testament)
- Talk about how God became the Person of Jesus and the wonderful things that Jesus did. ( New Testament)
- Talk to your child about how you learned about God, who talked with you about God.
- Show your child photos of their Baptism.... How they became part of God's Family. What happened at their Baptism.... Talk about the Water, the Holy Oils, the white garment, the Candle. All of these symbolise their new life as a member of God's Family. ( Don't just talk about the water).

### **Pray with your child**

- Prayer is communication with God... it involves speaking and listening. Teach your child how to pray. ... use simple words .. talk to God as you would to a friend.....
- Maybe say a prayer before bedtime.
- Say some of the traditional prayers..... Our Father, Hail Mary so that your child becomes familiar with the rhythm and the words .
- Children have an unique ability to connect with God. Helping this to grow, will strengthen your family's Faith. Let your child know that they can talk to God anywhere, anytime.

## Come to Mass

- We have Mass on a Saturday night at 6.00pm and Sunday Morning at 10.00am. Children are always welcome.



### St. Patrick's Church Grangetown

*Celebrating Children!*

Dear Parents of our Young Parishioners,

Thank you for bringing your children to celebrate with us. We welcome you to our growing church.

May we suggest:

Relax: God put the wiggle in children; Don't feel you need to suppress it in God's house.

Sit towards the front or aisle where it is easier for the little ones to see and hear.

Explain parts of the Mass to your children: they are curious and want to know what is going on.

Sing the hymns, Say the prayers, Join in with the responses- Children learn from your responses.

Wander: It's ok to move around. Sometimes it is easier to let fidgety children wander.



If you must leave, do so, but please come back.

As Jesus said, ' Let the children come to me for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'

*Note to all Parishioners.*

*The presence of children is a gift to our church. Like all of us, they are members of the Body of Christ and a reminder of the growth and future of our parish. Please welcome the children and their parents.*

*Give them a big smile of encouragement!*



Buy a simple Mass book, with pictures so that your child can understand the various parts of the Mass.

## When your child is older you can explain about the Sacraments

- Explain to your child that Baptism is the first of the Seven Sacraments, and that when they are older ( in Year 3) they will be able to come for preparation classes arranged by the Parish, and that when they are ready they can receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and then the Sacrament of the Eucharist ( Holy Communion). Look out for the invitation to enrol for the classes. These will be advertised in the Parish Newsletter.

There are many, many resources which will help you share your Catholic Faith with your child. Some are very complicated and use difficult language. Speak simply and let your child ask questions. If you have difficulty finding answers, ask a Priest or one of the Catechists and they will help you.

**You are part of our Parish Family and we look forward to seeing you.**