



What is the Church?

Parent Leaflet: Unit 4

We are People who Celebrate God's Word



Main Themes

The children, with their catechists, are thinking about how and when we listen to God's Word.

They are being asked to think about:

- ♦ How we can listen attentively, so that the message we hear gets through to us
- ♦ The fact that the Bible is a very important book for us as Christians
- ♦ The way we celebrate the Liturgy of the Word at Mass
- ♦ How the gifts of the Holy Spirit help us to understand God's Word

The children are also being encouraged to read and think about some Bible stories at home.

From Your Child's Worksheet

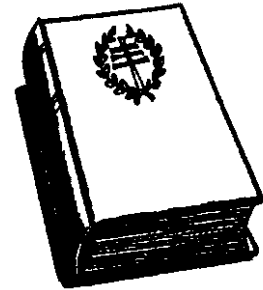
When we gather together at Mass

...we listen to God's Word

The Bible tells us about God and God's people.

In the Old Testament we hear about the people of Israel and their special relationship with God.

In the New Testament we hear about Jesus and those who were his first followers.



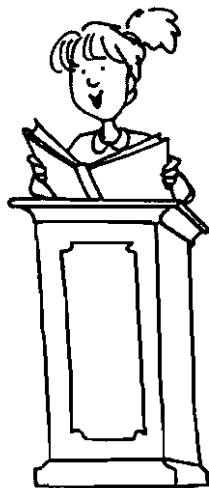
Our readings at Mass are taken from the Bible - both the Old and New Testaments.

They are printed in a special book called the Lectionary.

The reader stands at a special place to read to us.

Our task is to listen attentively - even if we have the words in front of us.

On a Sunday we have three readings and a responsorial psalm.



In the Gospel reading we hear what Jesus said and did when he was on the earth.

Sometimes the Gospel book is carried in a procession, or incense is burnt, or candles are held either side of the lectern as the priest reads the Gospel. All of these show that the Gospel is very important.

After the Gospel reading the priest gives a homily which helps us to reflect on the readings we have heard and think about what they might mean for us in our own lives.



What You Can Do To Help Your Child

If you do not have a Bible or book of Bible Stories at home, consider buying one now. It could be bought for all the family to use, or as a special gift for your child.

Read stories from the Bible to your child.

Talk with your child about the messages in the Bible stories and how we can apply these in our everyday life.

Come to Mass each Sunday so that your child can experience the Word of God being celebrated.

If your parish has a special Children's Liturgy group, encourage your child to attend so that they can consider God's Word at their own level.

Help your child to complete their worksheet - especially the last page.

Please keep your child's worksheet safe, so that they can bring it back to the next meeting with their catechist.

The Liturgy of the Word

"Each week we gather and in our midst the book (of scriptures) is opened and read. Its words are heard over and over again. They have come down to us through dozens and even hundreds of generations. We in turn read them to another generation and so entrust the book to our children. In these stories, visions, poems, letters - all kinds of writing - we Christians find again and again the meaning of our own journey, the Lord who is our way and truth and life."

(Cardinal Bernardin, *Guide to the Assembly*, page 12)