Celebrating Mass at St Gabriel’s School

Class and whole school Mass celebrations are an important part of our Religion program and your child's faith development. As with all things, parental involvement, support and interest help us to encourage children to take part fully and recognise the unique beauty of the Mass.

Parents and extended family are always welcome to join us at weekly Mass celebrations on Thursday at 9.15am when held at the school and at 9.30am when celebrated at the church (once per term). School Masses are held in the Multi-purpose room and we always set out chairs for parents and parishioners.

The Greeting

Father Matthew K or Father Mathew Joseph will celebrate our Mass. The priest will process up a centre aisle whilst the children and congregation join in an entrance song. We remain standing for the greeting, “Lord have Mercy” and opening prayer. Then Father will invite those gathered to sit for the readings.
The Liturgy of the Word

Children will have practised readings – a **First Reading**, taken from the Old Testament or from the Acts of the Apostles or letters by St Paul and others. At the end of the First Reading we respond with “Thanks be to God”.

The **Responsorial Psalm** is a Psalm divided into parts – each part is followed by a response by the congregation. This response is on the power point, which details all the prayers and responses.

The **Gospel Acclamation** follows the Psalm. We will be invited to stand and then sing, say and sing – as per the power point.

The responses to Father’s words are on the power point – when we say “Glory to You, O Lord”, we draw a cross with our right thumb on our forehead, on our lips and over our heart and we think, “May the word of God be in my thoughts, in my words and in my heart”.

Father will read the **Gospel** – taken from Matthew, Mark, Luke or John in the New Testament – and we will remain standing during this time out of respect for the Word of God. These Gospel readings are stories of Jesus’ life – his teachings and his actions as reported by the Gospel writers. We usually use the “Mass of the day” which follows the Church calendar or Liturgical Year. The readings are often hard to understand and often Father will make them clearer through his **Homily** – which follows the Gospel. At the end of the Gospel we respond, “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ”.

![Image of Jesus](image1.jpg)

![Image of Jesus](image2.jpg)
The Liturgy of the Eucharist

To begin the Liturgy of the Eucharist children will take the water, wine and bread (hosts) up the centre aisle and give them to Father. During this part of the Mass, Father will bless the bread and wine and say prayers of thanks and praise. We will join in singing the “Holy Holy”.

During the Eucharistic prayer, we recall what Jesus did at the Last Supper with his disciples. Father will lift up the host, repeat the words Jesus used and the bells will ring to mark this solemn and special moment when we believe that Jesus is truly present among us. Likewise, Father will lift the chalice and repeat Jesus’ words, the bells are rung and we believe that in the blood of Christ, Jesus is present among us.
We will stand and join in the “Our Father” which we sing. After the Our Father, we exchange a “Sign of Peace”. At this time you are invited to turn to the people around you and wish them peace – usually by shaking hands and saying – “Peace be with you”. You may nod and smile or exchange some other greeting of peace.

We sing a prayer called the “Lamb of God” whilst Father breaks the bread in preparation for Communion. At the Communion time Catholics will process up to receive the bread. All others are welcome to come forward to receive the priest’s blessing. Cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you are asking for a blessing. The children will sing during the Communion and sometimes after in the form of a “Reflection”.

![Image of two people shaking hands](image1)

![Image of children singing](image2)
The Dismissal

When Communion is finished, Father will tidy the altar and after a brief silence, he will wish us well, we will make the “Sign of the Cross and the Mass will end with a song and Father processing down the aisle.

Children are invited to greet parents and extended family who attended the Mass with them.

Your children and teachers love to have your company at this beautiful celebration. We are so blessed to be able to celebrate Mass once a week at the School, bringing parish life to us. Please come if you can and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask Jane Mitchell (Religious Education Coordinator) or Father.

There are three weekend Masses at St Michael’s Church where the same ritual is repeated. Attending weekend Masses helps the children to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith and traditions.

Mass times are Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9:30am and 6pm.