

# HOW WE PRAY THE MASS

## The Preparation and Offering of the Gifts

When the Liturgy of the Word has been completed we start our preparation for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. In the words of Scripture we have been reminded of how we are loved by God, and how we are asked to live well, sharing his love with others. In the preparation and offering of the Gifts which begins the Liturgy of the Eucharist we have our first chance to respond to God's word.

We make our offering for the work of the Church through the money we add to the collection. Have you ever wondered where that money goes? Some of it goes to pay the electricity and heating bills for the church, and some goes to help support the priest. But money also goes to support the work of the Church in teaching others about the love God has for them, and in helping the poor and needy. Our offering helps the Church be the Church.

And this offering is presented the priest along with the bread and the wine to be used in the Mass. This bread and wine will become the Body and Blood of Jesus. But it also symbolises us, and how (like Jesus) we offer ourselves to God. Through the Mass we have the precious chance of joining our offering of love to God with the perfect offering of love which Jesus offered.



### Prayers to learn....

The simple prayer below is very similar to a prayer used by Christians from the earliest times, and which is still used by the Jewish people.

It is a prayer which blesses God for the good things he provides for us.

In Mass we use these words to thank God for the bread we used. We use similar words to thank him for the wine.

How would you adapt the prayer to thank God for the gift of life; or the gift of today; or the gift of friendship?

**Blessed are you, Lord,  
God of all Creation.**

**Through your goodness we have this bread to offer  
which earth has given and human hands have made.**

**It will become for us the bread of life.**

***Blessed be God forever.***

## From The Song of the Suffering Servant

*In this passage from the writings of the prophet Isaiah written centuries before the birth of Jesus we hear a prophesy of the way that Jesus would suffer in the events which we remember in this coming Holy Week.*

The Lord has given me a disciples tongue.  
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied  
he provides me with speech.  
Each morning he wakes me to hear,  
to listen like a disciple.  
The Lord has opened my ear.  
For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I  
turn away.  
I offered my back to those who struck me,  
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;  
I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.  
The Lord comes to my help,  
so that I am untouched by the insults.  
So, too, I set my face like flint;  
I know I shall not be shamed.

### Questions for you and the family

- Why do you think Jesus allowed people to hurt him so much?
- What helped him to put up with the pain and humiliation?
- How can we show our gratitude to Jesus for what he endured for our sake?