



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
DIOCESE OF LEEDS
St Bartholomew, Armley
with St Mary of Bethany, New Wortley



OUR SERVICES

The main act of worship for the people of St Bartholomew's takes place on Sunday morning.

This service is called The Mass, or The Eucharist. The word Eucharist is derived from the Greek word meaning thanksgiving. Roman Catholics and some Church of England churches use the word Eucharist interchangeably with Mass to describe their Sunday Saint Jean Vianney said of the Eucharist. "There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us."

The Mass booklet is fairly easy to follow, and anyone in church will be very happy to help or guide you.

The Mass itself can be broken down into four main parts:

The Introductory Rite, which includes the greeting a confession and the collect the special prayer for the day; the Liturgy of the Word follows, which normally consists of a reading from the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures to give it its correct title, which is followed by a responsorial Psalm and then a reading from the New Testament. The Liturgy of the word always finishing with a reading from one of the four gospels, which is followed by the homily or sermon; the peace usually takes place after the prayers of the faithful or bidding prayers as they are also called, here we pray for the Church, for the World, for the Community in which we live and for our families and friends, we also pray for the sick and for those who have died. The Liturgy of the Eucharist, follows, bread and wine are brought to the altar, the Priest gives thanks and prays that they may become the body and blood of Christ, which we share in at communion (more on how this works practically below); and finally the Dismissal when we give thanks for what we have received during Mass and are then sent out with a blessing.

During the service normally after the prayers, we have what is called the 'peace'. After the introduction to the peace it is traditional to share a 'sign of peace' a simple greeting usually in the form of a handshake or it may be a kiss. This isn't quite the same as greeting someone in a non-church context it isn't really the right moment to catch up on the week's gossip or to introduce yourself to people (the best time for that is after Mass at coffee). Sharing the peace with those nearby is sufficient.

At communion time, people go forward to the front of church to receive communion. If you are confirmed or normally receive communion at another Christian church, then you are welcome to receive communion here. However, if not, you can still come forward to receive a blessing, please bring your Mass book with you to indicate to the Priest that this is what you want. Children are always encouraged to come forward for a blessing. During the COVID-19 pandemic we are receiving communion in one kind only.

After Mass, please you can chat with the priest socially distanced of course.

We take our charge to care for the people of Armley very seriously in this in this parish and if you need to talk to a priest make yourself known after Mass or contact us. (see the "[Contact Us](#)" page for contact details)

Coming to Church for the first time

The main act of worship for the people of St Bartholomew's takes place on a Sunday morning.

Here at St Bartholomew's we know and recognise that it can be difficult to start coming to church, However, as a Christian community we also know that church is the place where you will find fulfilment and meaning to life.

One of the first things to remember, if you decide to come, is that you will be coming to worship God and pray and this is exactly what everyone else is also here to do. In recognising that we are all here for the same purpose we begin to realise that no one will be checking up on you or taking notes about what you do or don't do.

We suggest that you come along to the Sunday Mass. The reason we suggest that you come along on Sunday is simply because if you come to mass at another time (when services available) you would be part of a smaller congregation so you may feel a little more self-conscious. However please feel free to attend any of our services, you will always be welcome.

When you arrive at church someone will greet you and either give you a mass booklet or show you to a seat where one has already been laid out for you together with the weekly newsletter. Please feel free to sit anywhere in the church. If you are unfamiliar with the service please sit nearer the back. Don't worry about sitting and standing at the wrong times the best thing is to watch and take your cue from what those around you do.

You may notice certain gestures which people make, the sign of the cross for instance. The sign of the cross tracing a cross across your body by touching your forehead, abdomen, left shoulder and right shoulder with your right hand is traditionally made at the beginning and end of Mass, usually accompanied with the words 'in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit'.

You don't have to make these gestures until you are happy and comfortable in the church environment, and even then they are not compulsory.

Children are very welcome at all our services, and we run a Sunday School in term time.

Would you like to receive Communion at home?

If you are housebound or unable to come to church, please contact Fr Michael and he will make arrangements for you to take communion at home.

We recognise that this is an important aspect of ministry and are keen to help.

