

To do on Sunday:

Bring your (labelled) baptismal candle; some people will prepare to read the Prayer of the Faithful (other page). The priest will ask the First Communion children to come up to the front row after the Gospel and will chat to them there for a minute or two. He'll practise the singing with them (below) and ask about where the altar is, the baptismal font. Then they will return to their places.

Questions to help you chat at home:**About you:**

Do you know where you were baptised? The parish? The church?

Do you know who baptised you? The priest's name, the deacon's name?

Who were your sponsors (godparents)? Have you seen pictures or videos of your baptism?

Have you been confirmed already? Or are you receiving your Holy Communion before being confirmed?

Where in the church?

Where is the baptismal font in the church you know best?

Where are the altars in the church you know best? The altar is in the shape of a table so it has a tabletop and some support. Barryroe church has four altars. Can you see them all? Courtmacsherry has two altars. Can you see them both?

What is an altar? An altar is a raised place, a raised flat surface, for placing an offering upon it. Christian altars are in the shape of a table – a table you stand at, rather than sit at – because the offering at Mass is also like a meal, where food and drink are consumed.

Where in the parish?

Do you know where both churches are in the parish? Do you know where the older churches were in the parish before they were demolished and replaced?: where in Lislevane and where in Butlerstown?

And before those churches, where was Mass celebrated in the parish? Read from the Schools' Project of the 1930s which has a piece on Butlerstown church and the sacraments of confirmation and first holy communion:

<https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4921666/4888557>

dúchas.ie >>

This is on www.duchas.ie The Schools' Collection, Baile an Bhuitléirigh, Tigh Molaga, pages 92 and 93.

Singing at Mass

Dialogue of the preface. You can listen to the first 30 seconds of

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTva2toFFE4> also on www.barryroe.ie/communion. Here is the musical notation.

V. The Lord be with you. R. And with your spir-it.

V. Lift up your hearts. R. We lift them up to the Lord.

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. R. It is right and just.

The Lord be with you – And with your spirit: *The priest greets the congregation, saying and wishing that the Lord Jesus be present at the beginning of the most important prayer at Mass. The people respond recognising the Lord is present in a different way in the priest presiding for the benefit of the congregation, he is “with his spirit”, a biblical way of saying the Lord is with a person.*

Lift up your hearts: *ancient custom of looking upwards to the sky when praying, imagining God is above us.*

Let us give thanks – *principally for Jesus’ love and work for us. We “do this in memory” of Jesus, in thanksgiving for his work, for offering his life.*

It is right and just – *we are obliged to give thanks, and it is worthwhile to give thanks because we benefit from it, receiving grace from God.*

Prayer (*singular!*) of the Faithful.

At the conclusion of the Creed, which we recite together, the six people come forward to the entrance of the sanctuary, bow at the waist (not too deep) to the altar, and then go to the left-hand side, the first person goes up the side steps to the ambo.

The priest is introducing the Prayer of the Faithful at the other side of the sanctuary at this point, so when he's done, the six people read the "intentions"

...we pray that the Lord will preserve us, we trust in him and direct our prayers to him.

1. For the local church of Cork and Ross, that all her members may reflect, pray and contribute to our discussions in this time of change. [*pause for 5 seconds*] Lord, hear us.
2. For those who will be on our ballot cards, and all those who will vote, that they will have at the foremost of their minds both the common good and care for the weak and marginalised. [*pause for 5 seconds*] Lord, hear us.
3. For our parish community, that we may welcome and support these young disciples of Christ with open arms and encouraging words. [*pause for 5 seconds*] Lord, hear us.
4. For our teachers who have taught us in religions class, that their efforts and kindness may be rewarded. [*pause for 5 seconds*] Lord, hear us.
5. For our parents and godparents, that they may continue to nurture the gift of faith. [*pause for 5 seconds*] Lord, hear us.
6. For young people who have already made their First Holy Communion, that they may continue to grow closer to the Lord Jesus. [*pause for 5 seconds*] Lord, hear us.

At the conclusion of the six intentions, please wait for the priest to conclude, mentioning the deceased, and finishing up with a prayer: ...*through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Then you may line up in front of the altar again, bow gently (at the waist), and then return to your places.