 **PARENTS’ GUIDE TO**

 **CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD**

* **What’s the purpose?**
	+ To give children of the Parish the wonderful message of God’s love for them in a fun, age appropriate and meaningful way.
	+ To teach the children Bible stories, Gospel and access the week’s Liturgy in a way they understand.
	+ To help children build their relationship with Jesus.
	+ To give parents an opportunity to fully engage with the first part of Mass, and with the Homily.
* **Who runs it?**
* Children’s Liturgy is run by a group of volunteer parishioners on a rota basis who have been DBS checked by the diocese, under the guidance of Father David.
* **Which children can go?**
* To start we are only able to accommodateschool agedChildren aged between 4 and 7 years old (Reception to year 3).
* This will be reviewed in the Autumn term, when we hope to be able to invite pre-schoolers when we have more leaders and helpers.
* As we start up the Liturgy again, we will only have one group in the church hall.
* **What happens?**
	+ We will now welcome the children at the doors to the community centre at 9.05 am and parents will then go into Church. At that point we will ask parents to sign a register dropping off their children.
	+ **ONLY ADULTS WHO ARE ON THE ROTA & HAVE BEEN DBS CHECKED WILL BE PERMITTED INTO THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT THIS TIME.**
	+ There is a similar format each week of prayers, listening to the Gospel or Bible story, and an activity related to the reading. Children need to be able to sit still and listen, at least for a short time, during the prayers and reading.
	+ The children will return to Church during or just after the offertory procession.
	+ **WE ASK THAT PARENTS SIT ON THE LEFT SIDE (FACING THE ALTAR)**. This enables us to bring the children to you in a calm and orderly manner.
* **Safeguarding**
* To ensure the safety and protection of the children, leaders and parish as a whole we are only able to allow adults who hold a DBS with St James’ Church into the community centre during Children’s Liturgy.
* Due to the updated Safeguarding Policy, we can **no longer** offer settling in sessions where the parent stays with the child.
* We will always bring a child back to parents if they are too unsettled.
* Please ensure your child is able to stay without you and is fully **toilet trained** before attending the session.
* **Can I help?**
* Yes please!
* The rota aims to be such that people are on “duty” every 4-5 weeks, provided we have enough volunteers.
* **Helpers** arrive before 9am to set up, help the children during the activity, clear up and do not need to do any preparation.
* **Leaders** would need to prepare beforehand. We have a standard format, book to follow and plenty of resources to assist with that, not to mention friendly and helpful current leaders to guide as necessary.
* **How do I find out more?**
* Please email childrens.liturgy@stjamespettswood.org or speak to any of the leaders or helpers you may know. 3 of our leaders are current parents at St James’:

**Amanda Haylock (Year 5)**

**Jane Clark (Year 1 & 4)**

**Miriam Gustafikova (Year 3 & 4)**

Please feel free to speak to us in the playground or ask for us.

* You can also ask Father David or someone you do know to introduce you to us – we would be delighted to meet you!

