

The Church and Our Lives

As a Church, through the celebration of the Sacraments, we turn to God at special moments in our lives; the whole of our lives.

Through ✚ BAPTISM
our life of faith begins, when we are first given the gift of faith in God and God's pledge of eternal life.

Through ✚ RECONCILIATION
we experience the forgiveness of God in our lives.



Through ✚ HOLY COMMUNION
we are fed with the very Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus in the Holy Eucharist during Mass.

Through ✚ CONFIRMATION
we make an act of faith for ourselves as we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Through ✚ MARRIAGE
God blesses the love between husbands and wives, strengthening them for their married life.

The ✚ SACRAMENT OF THE SICK
brings us healing and peace in our lives, and gives us strength as we face our final journey to eternal life.

Through ✚ HOLY ORDERS
God blesses the Church with ministers who continue the ministry of Jesus, sharing God's love and spreading the Gospel.

The Church and Your Children

As with any organisation, children are the future of the Church. The Church is there to help your children to grow up knowing the love of God in their lives.

This begins at Baptism when you the parents first give your children the gift of faith; you pass on your own faith through the Sacrament of Baptism



Throughout the lives of your young children, you enable them to experience God's presence in their lives as they continue to receive the sacraments.

They experience God's forgiveness in Reconciliation and are nourished by Jesus when they make their First Holy Communion. These sacraments they receive for the first time as children, but they can then receive them for the rest of their lives.

When the children are in Year 6, they complete their Sacraments of Initiation when they make an act of faith for themselves and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and are filled with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

May God bless you and I hope to see you soon and be part of your lives.



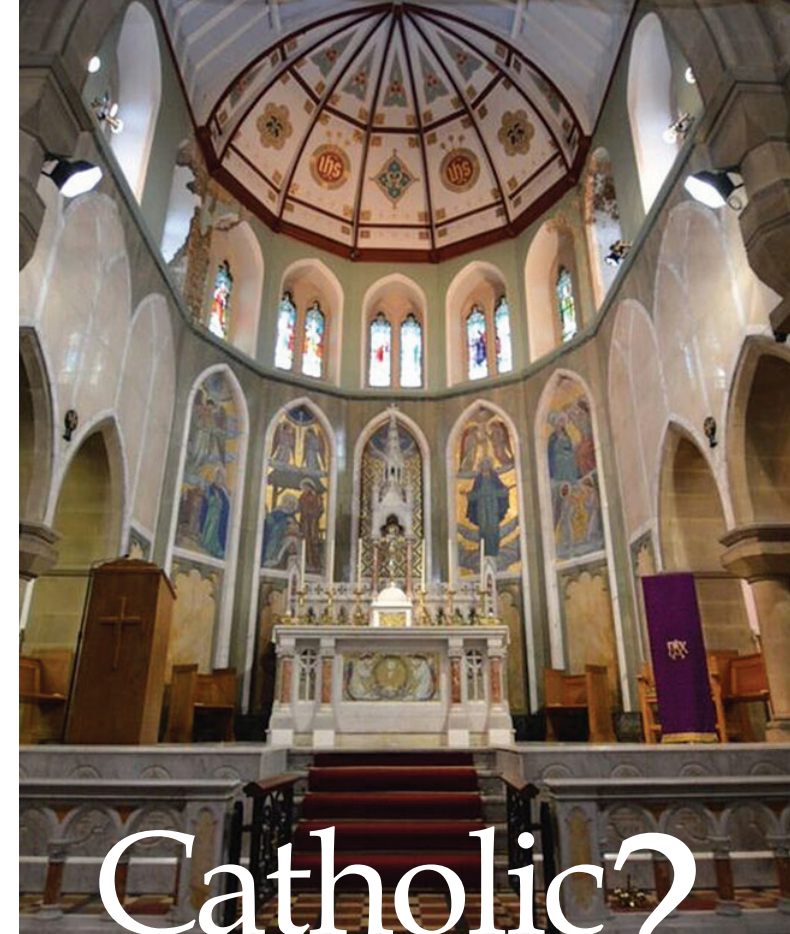
St. Mary of the Angels

Home of the Torchlight Procession

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Catholic?

and have lost touch •

"Let us remember this in our lives as Christians: God always waits for us, even when we have left Him behind. He is never far from us, and if we return to Him, He is ready to embrace us."

Pope Francis
from 'The Church of Mercy'



St. Mary of the Angels

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*St. Mary of the Angels' Catholic Church, Batley
would love you to be part of our future*

An introduction from Fr. Éamonn ...

In my time here, I have come to realise very clearly how proud the Catholic people of Batley are of their Parish Church.

This became especially evident in the way the people of the parish pulled together to raise funds after a large section of the ceiling fell down in 2015. Thanks to the hard work of the parishioners, we are now nearing completion of restoration work; ready to face the future with confidence.

St. Mary's is our 'House of Prayer', a place where we encounter God in the ups and downs of life; where we can come quietly and bring the joys and sorrows, the hopes and dreams of our lives to God in prayer. It is where we celebrate important events of our lives: marriages, baptisms, first Holy Communion, funerals. It is in Church we pray for our loved ones who are sick or have died; where we remember and pray for family member anniversaries and offer Masses for the repose of their souls. It is in Church where we can experience the love and forgiveness of God, where we can start our lives again, knowing that we are God's children and God loves us. Above all, it is in Church we gather together as a family, to give glory and praise to God. Everybody is called and all are welcome - **even if it is a long time since you were in Church.**

People stop coming to church for all sorts of reasons:

- **people simply drift away until eventually they stop coming**
- **people are just so busy that regular attendance at church seems impossible**
- **people were never brought up with regular attendance at church**
- **people have been hurt by life and feel church cannot help**
- **people have been hurt by the church and feel the church does not understand or care**

Many people who have stopped attending Mass still feel part of the Church; still consider themselves Catholic. If that includes you, then may I reassure you that you are still part of the Church and you are still Catholic. St. Mary's is still your church; it is still your parish and you are very welcome.

The Church does not belong to anybody, least of all the Parish Priest. The Church belongs to our Lord Jesus, and He is always reaching out to you and wants to make you welcome into His Church, His parish. That is the purpose of this leaflet, to let you know that St. Mary of the Angels' Church is here for you and wants to reach out the hand of friendship and make you welcome.

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*You are the Church,
I am your Parish Priest,
that is why I am here.*
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If you would like to get in touch, I am more than happy to meet you, even simply for a chat; you are welcome to the Church or Presbytery (I will put the kettle on). Equally, I am happy to come visit you. I am not going to say "you must come back to Church" (although you know you are very welcome). I want you to know that you and your lives are important to me and the Church, because they are important to Jesus.

If you are anxious about coming back to Church, let me know you are coming and I will welcome you at the entrance, if that would help. We have the texts of Masses and people will be happy to show you what to do and make you feel at home. Remember, it is your parish church, you have a right to be here.

**I hope you have found this leaflet helpful
or at least reassuring.
As the Parish Priest at St. Mary's,
I want you to know that you are most welcome.**



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

**Something very special about our parish
is St. Mary of the Angels'
Catholic Primary School**

Here your children are nurtured in an environment which lives and breathes the love of God for all the children. The seeds of faith are watered so your children grow up confident and proud of who they are as God's own children.

Sadly, there are so many children from Catholic families who do not attend our school because they have not yet been baptised. We want to offer our school to all our Catholic children.

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**I encourage you parents, to enable
the seeds of faith to grow in your children
with Baptism into Church and a place in
St. Mary's Catholic Primary School.**
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