



Get in touch

Fr. Liam Rigney Parish Priest

Mobile: 087 2607 377

Email: liam.rigney@dublindiocese.ie

Fr. Francis McCarthy C.C.

Mobile: 087 6978 143

Conor McCann—Parish Pastoral Worker

Mobile: 086 7905 654

Email: conor.mccann@dublindiocese.ie



**THE PARISH
OF ATHY**



Thinking about becoming a Catholic?
“Come and See..”

Did you know that the word catholic means “for everyone”? The Catholic Church around the whole world is filled with all kinds of people who know and love Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2000 years ago, the Son of God became man so that we could know God. Jesus revealed to us his Father in heaven, healed the sick and worked all kinds of miracles to show us that he really is God. Then he showed how much he loves us by dying for us on the cross to save us. On the third day, he rose again from the dead, before returning to his Father in heaven.

Jesus founded the Catholic Church so that everyone who looks for him can find him. Anyone can become a member — that’s what the name means.

Do you think God might be calling you to follow him in the Catholic Church? You don’t need to make any firm decisions before you can start asking questions. Speak to a priest to start learning more about what Catholics believe. No one will try to rush you into anything.

A summary of the Catholic Faith

THE APOSTLES’ CREED.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

“Come and see...”

When Jesus was asked by someone; ‘Where do you live?’ He replied; *‘Come and See.’*

This same invitation is extended to you, if you would like to know more, come and see. You are welcome to attend any Mass in the church and observe what takes place. If you have questions afterwards, please contact one of the priests or the Parish Pastoral Worker and we will be happy to help in anyway we can.

MASS TIMES:

Monday - Friday 9.30am

Saturday - 6pm

Sunday - 10.30am & 12noon

us that Jesus is God. And, in fact, Mark doesn't expect us to be surprised as we watch the disciples work it out, because Mark told us in his opening sentence that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of God". Since we were not around 2000 years ago, a helpful way of understanding Mark's question "Who is Jesus?" is to think of it as: "What is Jesus like? What kind of person is he?" The disciples could see for themselves, but we can't. We often forget that Jesus has a particular personality. But he became man to make God more approachable. The more we get to know what Jesus is like from the Gospel, the easier we will find it to speak to him in prayer.

Clearly, we won't pick up on these kinds of details if we read the whole Gospel in one sitting. Try to find a regular time (whether that's once a week or every day) to read a short section of the Gospel. As you read the passage, ask yourself what it tells you about Jesus' character.

You might also like to look at the people who ask Jesus for help and think about what it is they need saving from. We know that Jesus is the Saviour, but what does each of us need saving from in particular? The other people in the Gospel can help us work that out — and if we see ourselves in them, we know what kind of reception to look for from Jesus.

*“There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved — than the name of Jesus.”
Acts 4:12*

How do I become a Catholic?



We become members of the Church by being baptised (or christened) and confirmed. If you were baptised in another church either as an adult or as a child, you won't need to be baptised again, but instead will be received into the Church and confirmed.

Before adults can be baptised, received or confirmed, there has to be a period of preparation or catechesis. This might seem strange when we think about it, since we regularly baptise babies — and they have no idea what's happening to them! This illustrates a very important point: the sacraments of baptism and confirmation aren't something human beings do. Baptism is a gift from God, and it is God who does the work when we are baptised.

The same is true in confirmation. Since it is God himself working, it doesn't matter whether we understand what's happening or not in order for it to work. Babies are validly baptised with no understanding of what is happening to them. But unless those baptised babies are taught the faith as they grow up, their baptism won't do them much good in leading a Christian life. So in the same way, the Church asks adults seeking baptism or confirmation to make sure they understand what they are asking for.

Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word."
(Catechism of the Catholic Church)

We run classes in the parish as they are required. The model that we use is like this picture which depicts Jesus walking with two of His followers, accompanying them.

Please feel free to make contact with any of the priests of the parish or the Parish Pastoral Worker, details on the back page.



“From the time when I became a Catholic...I have had no anxiety of heart whatever. I have been in perfect peace and contentment; I have never had one doubt. I was not conscious to myself, on my conversion, of any change, intellectual or moral, wrought in my mind. I was not conscious of firmer faith in the fundamental truths of revelation, or of more self command; I had not more fervour; but it was like coming into port after a rough sea; and my happiness in that score remains to this day without interruption.”

*St John Henry Newman,
Apologia pro vita sua*

“I remember that evening so vividly. Such an important moment in my life. I am so glad and happy...”

Terry – baptised, April 2022

“I think the fact that I'm a convert is such a blessing. I had to search and discover what Catholics believe and why they believe it. What a deep and beautiful faith we have...”

Jenny – Received into the Church, May 2023

Prayer

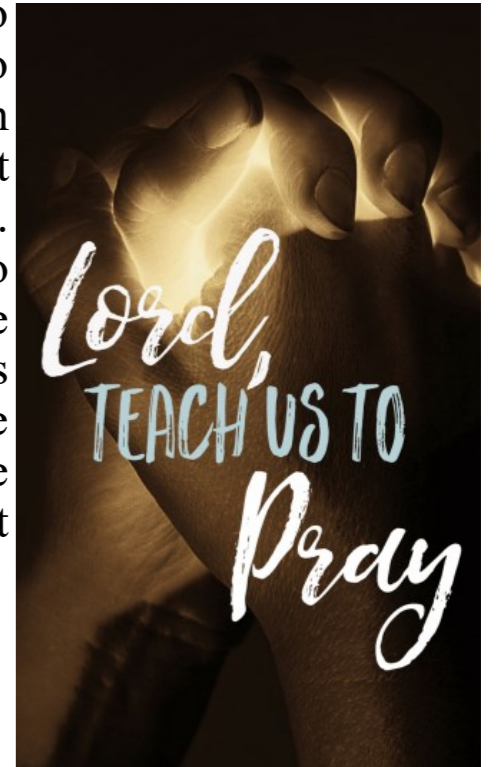
If you don't already, try to find some time to pray every day. Eventually, you will want to form the habit of spending some time in prayer each morning and evening. Don't worry too much about how to pray for now. Even if it's for less than a minute, just try to think about and talk to God when you wake up and before you go to sleep. Once this becomes a habit, it will be easier to add more structure to your daily routine of prayer. The prayer Jesus taught his followers is the best place to start:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.



Get to know Jesus



If you're not so familiar with the Bible, don't try to read it from cover to cover. This really is a case where we need to know the ending first. The four Gospels record the life and teaching of Jesus. Mark's Gospel is the shortest, but captures lots of details that Matthew and Luke don't have space for, making it an excellent place to start. Mark has a question in mind for us as he writes his Gospel: "Who is Jesus?" One answer to that is: "God". He shows us the process of the disciples working this out for themselves, and describes the miracles Jesus worked in order to reveal this to them. It can be helpful for us to see for ourselves the evidence that convinced them that Jesus is God made man. But it's probably not a surprise to