

Family Ministry Staff Team

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**If you have any feedback about this changes,
please do tell us.**

Admissions to St Mary's Primary School and Church Attendance

If you wish to have school admission forms signed, please ensure you have registered at Sunday School or signed in at Church each and every Sunday! (There is a Church register at the rear of the Church with the Wardens.)

Please note that Regular Church Attendance is a minimum of 2 Sunday's a month, and participation in the full life of our community for at least 6 months, ideally two years!!



St Mary's & St James'

Offering God's Love to All

Family Ministry



Changes starting in Advent

St Mary's working in partnership with
St James, West Hampstead.

*Inclusive Churches welcoming all regardless of age, gender, background,
ethnicity, disability or sexuality.*

As part of our commitment to ensuring every member of our church community has an opportunity to grow in faith regardless of their age or circumstance we offer a range of programs and worship spaces for children and families during the week.

We hope that the changes will enable you and your family to take a full part in the life of our community.

Over the past years the involvement of families and children in the worship at St Mary's has changed significantly with the growth of our community. We have tried to listen to the diversity comments and experience of worship at St Mary's. Some of the things we have heard:

- Some parents and children find Family Services stressful and have stopped coming on Family Service Sundays.
- Some adults have said they would like the chance to worship without their children on some occasions.
- Some children have said they would like to stay in Sunday School sometimes and not come into Church
- Most adults and children have said they want to enjoy the experience of worship at St Mary's
- Many people have said they would like more teaching about how to live as a Christians.

The leadership team are also aware that we all have busy lives and want all members of the community to be able participate meaningfully in the worship life of the of our parish as we continue to grow as a Christian Community.

As a result from Advent 2011 (which starts on the 27th November) we are going to be implementing some changes:

1. During Advent in church we will be changing some parts of our liturgy (the way we worship) - we will only have one reading, what is happening will be explained and the sermons will be preached by one person for 4 weeks so that a theme can be developed. The style of sermons will be more teaching based.
2. On one Sunday a month, starting on the 11th December Sunday School **will not** return to church during the service. On these Sunday's we will have **Messy Church with Mass** in the Hall and **Choir Mass** in Church. Parents of School age children are invited to choose if they join the program in the hall or come to church. On these Sundays

children must be collected from the Hall after church. Everyone will still participate

3. We will no longer be having *Family Services*. Once a month we will be having an **All Age Service** in Church which will be different from the old family services but will allow us all to worship together It will still include the Eucharist and the Gospel, but other elements of the structure may be flexible.
4. Finally, to support the work in the Sunday School the clergy will more regularly be in Sunday School supporting the leaders and teachers.

In Sunday School we will still offer classes for Nursery, Infants, Juniors and Secondary —though on Messy Church Sundays we may work together. For this to work effectively Please arrive ON TIME to start at 10am. It is also important that you register— we keep accurate records of attendance and it is also important so that we know who is in the building should there be an emergency.

Behaviour in and around Church!

We want everyone to be safe in our church and it is an old building with lots of sharp corners and we have a large number of people. To ensure that everyone is safe and able to worship we have a few simple rules for both church and hall:

1. We are here to worship God—please respect each other and ensure that you are participating in what is happening
2. Adults are role models—please ensure that you are listen so that children can follow your example
3. No running and No Scooters to be ridden inside!
4. Children must be supervised when lighting candles.
5. Be aware of those who are around you, and help when you can!