

Narthex

The narthex is the main entrance of the church which can be a gathering space and highlight parish events. **Take a look and see what events you can take part in.**



Stations of the Cross

These are placed on the walls around the church. The 14 stations remind us of Jesus' passion and death. Walking from station to station, we remember the journey of Jesus before his death, particularly during Lent. **Which station stands out to you the most?**



Lady Chapel/Area

This is an area in honour of Jesus' mother, Mary. Our Lady often wears the colour blue and a crown, showing she is the Queen of heaven and mother of God. **You may like to pray the "Hail Mary".**



Prayer (Votive) Candles

Lighting a candle in prayer is a powerful symbol, full of meanings. When we go, leaving the burning candle behind, we are reminded that our souls never leave the presence of God, in company with His Saints. **Why not light a candle.**



Liturgical Art

These include flower arrangements and decorations that adorn the worship space to help us enter into the various feasts and seasons of the church year. **Look at the decorations. What liturgical season are we in?**

REMEMBER... THE CHURCH IS MUCH MORE THAN A BUILDING.
IT IS EVERY ONE OF YOU, THE PEOPLE OF GOD.



Explore the Signs and Symbols of our Church

CHILDREN
YOUTH
FAMILIES
Guildford

St Mary's
Catholic Church



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THE CHURCH IS FULL OF SIGNS AND SYMBOLS. THE MOST POWERFUL BETWEEN THE CRUCIFIX, TABERNACLE, ALTAR, THE PEOPLE OF GOD AND THE FONT. THESE FORM A VERTICAL LINE. THE LECTERN, ALTAR AND SEDILIA FORM A HORIZONTAL LINE ACROSS THE CHURCH. THESE LINES ARE IN THE SHAPE OF A CROSS. NOTICE THAT THE ALTAR IS THE CENTRE POINT. THIS IS BECAUSE IT IS AT THE ALTAR THAT OUR FAITH, THROUGH THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST, FINDS ITS SOURCE AND SUMMIT.

Crucifix

Look at the crucifix. This reminds us that Jesus died for us. What does Jesus' death on the cross mean to you?



WALK AROUND AND HAVE FUN DISCOVERING THE BEAUTY OF OUR CHURCH

Sanctuary Lamp

This is a reminder that the Sacrament is reserved in the tabernacle. What colour is the candle?



Lectern

This is where the word of God is proclaimed. The 1st and 2nd readings are read by a lector; the gospel by a deacon or priest. All are read from a book called the lectionary. The gospels tell us all about Jesus and what he said and did. What is your favourite gospel story?



Tabernacle

This is where the Eucharist is reserved for the sick and the dying. Before we sit in our pews for Mass we always genuflect towards the tabernacle as a mark of reverence. Why not practice genuflecting?



Altar

It is from the altar that the priest leads the people in praying the Eucharistic prayer, the great prayer of thanksgiving. During this prayer the bread and wine, through the word of the priest through the action of the Holy Spirit becomes the body and blood of Christ. Try and remember some of the words the priest says during the Eucharistic prayer.



Sedilia

The chair for the priest celebrant is also placed in the sanctuary. Why not sit on the deacon's chair and face the nave, what do you see?



Nave (for the people of God)

The nave has pews/chairs for the people to sit. Take a seat and look at what you can see in front of you. Can you find the tabernacle? Why not kneel down and say a prayer to Jesus?



Holy Water Stoop

We dip our hands into the holy water and make the sign of the cross. This reminds us of our baptism when we were claimed by Christ and rose to new life. Dip your hand in the holy water and make the sign of the cross.



Paschal Candle

During the Easter season, this candle is lit. This candle is prepared, blessed and lit at the Easter vigil. It is the light of Christ. At funerals the paschal candle is placed near the coffin to indicate Christ's presence, his victory over sin and death, and the promise of sharing in his victory. Look at how the candle is decorated.



Baptismal Font

The sacrament of baptism is the beginning of our journey as the children of God and members of the church. The baptismal font reminds us that our journey of faith begins with baptism and leads us to the altar. What does your baptism mean for you?

