



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Community

A Catechetical Guide to Our Parish Church

Serving the Catholic and wider community of Herne Bay
Part of the Archdiocese of Southwark
Served by the Passionist Order
www.ourladyhernebay.co.uk



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Stoup

As a reminder of their baptism, on entering the church, Christians dip their fingers in the holy water and make the Sign of the Cross. This gesture is one of the earliest traditions of our faith and it reminds us that we belong to Christ who by his death on the Cross won for us the promise of eternal life.



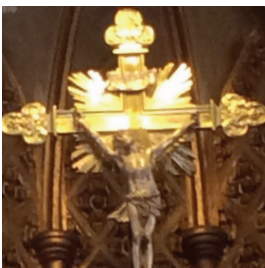
Baptismal Font

The basin, supported by a pedestal, receives the holy water that is poured over the head of a person being baptised. Through baptism we are freed from sin and joined with Christ, sharing in his divinity. We are called to share in his holiness and to participate in Christ's threefold mission of Priest (joining with him in our daily sacrifices), Prophet (proclaiming his message in the world) and King (to serve others through acts of charity).



Ambo (or Lectern)

The readings of Holy Scripture have always been an integral part of the Liturgy. It is also from the ambo that the priest or deacon delivers the homily. The homily or sermon opens up for us God's saving message, which we hear in the readings, and helps us to grow closer to God.



Crucifix

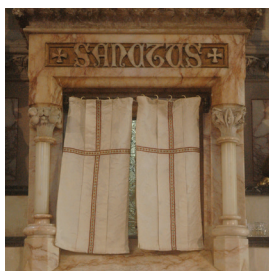
We firmly believe and hope that just as Christ died on the Cross and rose again to eternal life, we too will die to greed, envy, pride and jealousy and rise with him.

The Passionist Congregation who serve our parish is dedicated to reminding the world of the Passion of Jesus.



Altar

Here we see the sacrifice of the Cross made present during the celebration of the Mass. Similar to our gesture of love when we visit a relative or friend, the priest kisses the altar at the beginning and end of Mass. The altar is prepared with an altar cloth, candles and a crucifix. Bread and wine which represent our daily living are brought to the altar to remind us to bring our everyday selves in sacrifice and thanksgiving to God each time we celebrate Mass.



Tabernacle

The consecrated bread known as the 'Blessed Sacrament' is placed in the most worthy of places – the tabernacle – towards the end of Mass. Tabernacle was the name of the tent of meeting the Israelites prepared for God to dwell. Generally, a red candle will be nearby to signify the presence Christ with whom we are joined in baptism.



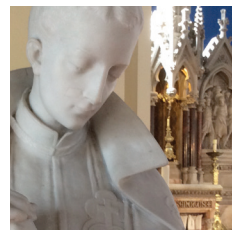
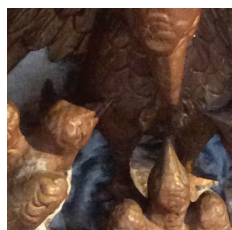
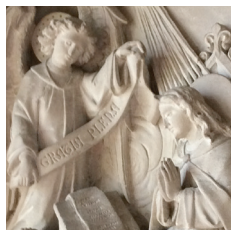
Statues of the Saints and the Shrine to Our Lady

Having revealed himself to us, God invites us to respond through our prayer. Prayer, the raising of hearts and minds to God, is an opportunity to express our love for him and to thank him for his many blessings. While seeking to do his will, we also petition him with our needs and those of others. As Christians, we seek the intercession of the saints and in particular with special devotion to Our Blessed Mother, Mary.



The People of God: Us

God did not come to save us as individuals but as a people joined in love of God and of one another.





Carvings, Glass and the Stations of the Cross

There are many carvings around the church which are symbolic of Jesus Christ (for example the pelican feeding its young with its own blood or the lamb which reminds us of Jesus giving his life for us). There are also images which describe and illustrate scenes from the life of Jesus and his Mother (for example in the side chapels). Of particular interest are the fourteen Stations of the Cross which describe the last days of Jesus, his Passion and death.



The Paschal (Easter) Candle

This candle, lit at the Easter Vigil Mass, reminds us of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Light. It is he who has overcome darkness and death. On our baptism we receive a candle, lit from this one, as a share in his mission - we are called to be lights in the world. Five grains of incense are inserted into the candle to symbolise the five wounds of Christ.

About our parish

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart is a parish of the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ (Passionists) who have served the parish since its beginnings towards the end of the 1870's. Part of the Canterbury Deanery in the Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark, our parish serves the community of Herne Bay and surrounding villages. Today the parish is active in prayer and charitable works. You are very welcome to join us one Sunday to see who we are and what we are about.

About our patron

The patron of our parish is Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Mary gave Jesus his humanity. In this special relationship, Mary becomes for all time, the woman closest to the Heart of Jesus. We celebrate this feast on 8th May.

