

## People stop coming to Mass for all kinds of reasons

Some never really started.

Perhaps you were baptised as a catholic,  
even made your First Communion,  
but you were never much part  
of the family of the Church.  
Your parents rarely came to Mass,  
so you didn't either

Perhaps you stopped coming  
as a teenager,  
even after being confirmed.

You found it boring.  
It wasn't 'cool' to come to church.  
It was so easy just to drift away quietly.

Perhaps you were hurt by something  
said or done by someone at church.  
You may still feel rather angry about it.

We are very sorry.

Or perhaps you felt unworthy  
because of something you did.  
You felt uncomfortable being there  
because you knew deep in your heart  
that you were doing wrong,  
or at least that the church disapproved.

Perhaps your marriage broke down.  
You are now in a new relationship,  
even married again.

Perhaps you cannot receive communion,  
so you don't see the point of coming.

If you have been away for a long time,  
you may find the Church today  
is very different

Have a fresh look and give it a go.

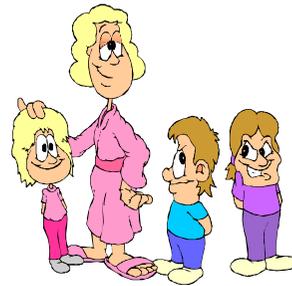
Whatever the reason you left, please come back to  
church, And join your parish community  
you are a vital part of God's family  
and you will be warmly welcome

## Our Church Family

The church is not just a building.  
It is a community, a family.  
Together, we are God's royal family.  
We are the community  
of God's beloved sons and daughters.  
There is no greater dignity than that!

You may not always  
have seen the church like that.  
Perhaps you had bad experiences  
in the past.

The Church always needs renewal.  
It is made up of ordinary people,  
frail human beings who fail and fall  
Our diocese of Salford  
and our parish community  
are not perfect  
but we are trying hard  
to be a true family  
where everyone is warmly welcome.



BUT

### **But I don't know anyone.....**

Perhaps not, though you may be surprised.  
Don't worry that everyone will look at you!  
And there are lots of ways of meeting others and feeling  
you belong.

### **But I am afraid of Confession.....**

Don't worry about that at the moment. Just come along  
to Mass and get used to what goes on. Get the feel of  
the church and its worship. Come forward for a  
'blessing' at Communion if you like (just bow your  
head or cross your arms to show you are not receiving  
communion) When you are ready, just come to the  
great Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) . It may  
be rather daunting but God gives His freedom and  
peace as He lifts all past burdens of sin and gives you a  
new beginning.

### **But I can't receive communion....**

You may have heard that you cannot receive  
communion, and perhaps you can't do much to change  
how things are. Come and talk it through with your  
parish priest to clarify the situation. But even if you  
cannot receive communion coming to Mass is still a  
wonderful thing to do. There are lots of people at Mass  
every Sunday who can't receive communion. Not just  
the many children who haven't made their First  
Communion, but also non-catholic husbands and wives,  
and perhaps people in the same position as you. You  
are still part of our family, and you will receive many  
blessings by coming to church. There's a deep pain in  
not being able to receive communion, but an even  
greater loss in not being part of the Mass and the  
Church at all. Try to be fully involved as you can in our  
life and worship

*Some may be able to move forward through the  
Diocesan Marriage Tribunal and the annulment  
process. See your priest for details.*

## Coming back to Mass

The Mass is the every heart and centre of our lives as Catholics. Taking part in the Mass is the hallmark of being a Catholic.

### WHY?

Because the Risen Lord himself invites each of us, calling us by name, to spend time with him, to listen to him speaking to us in the Scripture readings, to profess our faith together, to unite our lives with His sacrifice and to have our inner self, our soul, nourished by the gift of his own life.

It is Jesus himself who says to us about the Mass: ***'Do this in memory of me.'***

The Mass is our Lord's most precious gift, because He gathers us together and shares His life with us. There He fills us with His life and love, and He gives us peace no one else can give.

It is the Risen Jesus himself who stands in your church, with His arms open in welcome, inviting you to join His group of friends who gather close to Him. No matter how long you have been away. You will be very warmly welcome - by the Lord Jesus and His Church

Jesus says

**'Come to me all who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest'.**

This leaflet was originally produced by

The Rev. Michael Evans  
Bishop of East Anglia.

## The Accrington KSC

The Knights of Saint Columba was formed in 1919 by men returning from the WW1 who were unable to find work and living amid deprivation. They met together and the KSC came into being.

The original aims and objectives still remain.

What do we do?

We actively support members in their vocation and mission as Catholic laymen

We spread the Gospel for the conversion of souls and the growth of the Church

We restore all things in Christ by working for the moral and social welfare of the country.

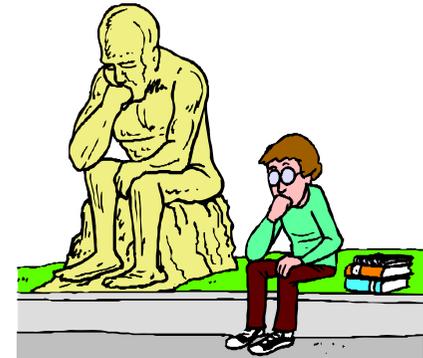
You can find more information about the KSC on the web site [www.ksc.org.uk](http://www.ksc.org.uk)

### Parish contacts.

For details of Mass times  
[www.salforddiocese.org.uk](http://www.salforddiocese.org.uk) parishes

# COMING

# HOME



Thinking  
About  
coming back  
to Church?