

*Dear Parents,*

*Please remember to read the Background Notes for Parents first, if you have not already done so.*

In **Reception** children will recognise the importance of gathering together. They will learn how the parish family gathers to celebrate Mass and that at Mass the parish family listens to God's Word. As we are not able to gather together as freely as usual due to COVID restrictions this should be talked about with care to avoid upsetting children who may be missing gathering with friends and extended family.

EARLY YEARS - Gathering EUCARIST THEME	
<b>Key Vocabulary</b>	Welcome blessing listen pray Mass sing gather together alone Lectern "The Lord be with you." "And with your spirit."
<p>The parish family finds strength in gathering for the celebration of the Eucharist, a sign of God's love in our lives. We share memories, love and thanks as we celebrate the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus.</p> <p>Children will know and understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>how and why people gather together</b></li><li>• <b>the joy of gathering together to celebrate at Mass</b></li></ul> <p><b>Week 1:</b> Read the story '<b>Happy Together</b>' and discuss some of the things that you do 'together'. Play a game and discuss how it feels playing it 'together'. Throughout the week notice the things you are doing together. Share photos of groups gathering together.</p>	

## Week 1: How and why people gather together

### Read the story: Happy Together

#### Happy Together

"Can I really go back to Nursery (school) tomorrow?" Thomas asked his Mum. "Of course, you can," she answered. "Your spots have all gone and you are really better now."

Thomas had not been able to go to Nursery (school) for over a week because he had chicken pox. He had not enjoyed that very much at all. His spots had been very itchy, and Mum had told him that he mustn't scratch them. It was hard not to, but when he did, it made them sore as well as itchy.

The worst thing about not being able to go to Nursery (school) was not being with the other children. Thomas had felt all alone. He had no brothers or sisters and Emma and Joe, his friends from Nursery (school), were not allowed to come to his house to play in case they caught chicken pox.

Now Thomas was excited. He could hardly wait for the next day to come. He was looking forward to playing in the sand with Joe, doing puzzles with Emma and sharing a game on the climbing frame.

Ask your child to suggest some other things Thomas and the other children in his class might do together. Talk about the activities that are better done together. What makes them better?

**Task:** Play a game together such as **Snakes and Ladders** or Hide and Seek. Discuss how children enjoyed it because they played it together with you. Talk about other things that you may do as a family 'together'.

Through the week look for opportunities to do things together as a family e.g. games, story time, chores.