

A Look Around

The **Altar** is the centrepiece of the church. It is a marble communion table where we share in Jesus' last meal with His disciples - the 'Last Supper'



Behind the altar is the '**Tabernacle**' that contains the unconsumed, consecrated Hosts. The red oil light, known as the "**Sanctuary Lamp**", on the right of the tabernacle indicates to visitors that Jesus is present in this form in the church.

The door of the **Confessional** is on the left of the altar with the priest's name on it. This is a small room where people confess their sins to God in the presence of the priest, and receive assurance of God's forgiveness. There is a screen between the person and the priest so that anonymity may be preserved.

Around the Church are 14 little plaques illustrating the sequence of events of the Passion of Our Lord and are called "**The Stations of the Cross**".

We use them as a reminder, when we meditate on the Passion and Death of Our Lord.



We have heard it said but NO! We do not worship statues.



We have statues of Our Lady and of St Vincent de Paul to remind us of these Saints. We may light candles, which symbolically present our needs before the saint and before God.

There are four candles fixed to the wall around the church in accordance with the ancient custom of the Church to indicate that the building has been formally dedicated to God.



The **Easter candle** (also known as the 'Paschal Candle') is lit to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World'

The **Baptismal Font** and **The Book of Remembrance**, in which we recall those parishioners, who have died, and keep them in mind on their anniversaries, are both to the left of the altar.



*Welcome
to*

*The Parish of
St Vincent de Paul,
Norden*

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Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to all visitors to our church today and hope that these brief notes about our Church and our Faith will be of help and interest to you.

Our Parish was established in 1939 and has been on this site since 1975 and we are pleased to say that our congregation includes members from every continent in the world

Maybe you are here for a Baptism, a Wedding or a Funeral. You are joining with family and friends to mark this day and make it holy. By coming to church you show solidarity with your loved ones and with the whole congregation as we join together in prayer.

Do I Sit, Stand or kneel?

The general rule is that you do what you are most comfortable with.

Coming into church, before entering a pew, we kneel upon one knee for a moment (genuflect) facing towards the altar as an act of reverence to Jesus Christ, whom we believe is present in the tabernacle.

Visitors need feel no obligation to genuflect and neither are you expected to sit, stand or kneel with the rest of the congregation.

We do ask that you respect our Church as a place of worship and try to avoid causing distraction to others. So lowered voices, if we need to speak to one another, and mobiles in silent mode please. Again no photos please except at allocated times.

Hymn books and Mass leaflets are usually available as you enter church. Please ask if they are not obvious or have not been distributed.

There is a toilet through the door at the front right-hand side of the altar.

What Catholics believe

Along with all other mainstream Christians, we believe that God created us for Him to love us, and for us to love Him. We believe Jesus Christ to be God Himself who, because of His love, became man to suffer the consequence of our wrong-doing.

We are received into the Church at our Baptism and at Confirmation, we receive the Holy Spirit, who provides the much needed support for us to try to live a life worthy of God's love.

The message of Christ at the core of our Faith is Love of God and of our neighbour, who is all mankind.

The Mass

The Mass is our main formal service and the basic format is to start with an acknowledgement of our shortcomings followed by a series of scripture readings, which may be followed by a homily - a short reflection by the priest. After this we have the 'bidding prayers' where we put our needs before God.

The second part of the Mass is a celebration of the Eucharist when bread and wine are brought to the altar, blessed and we believe are 'consecrated' into the living Body and Blood of Jesus Christ and shared by us in Communion.

If you are not a Catholic, we regret that we cannot invite you to receive Communion, but everyone is welcome to come forward, join the queue for Communion and receive a simple blessing; please indicate this by approaching the person giving out communion with your arms folded across your chest.

The Mass then finishes with a Blessing and an exhortation to us to spread the Good News of the Gospel.

Not been here for a while?

If you are a Catholic who does not attend church often please understand that God loves us and accepts us where we are today, not where we wish to be or where we think God wants us to be.

We hope that you felt welcome at our service today and that maybe it has prompted you into thinking about your previous practice of the Faith and the possibility of resuming your membership of the Church. While there are thousands of reasons why people fall away from our Faith, there is not a single reason why Jesus would not want to welcome us back.

However you do need to take a step however small. Coming to Mass again is an easy step on the way and it can be taken at your own pace allowing you the time and space to think about it.

We include below some details of the help, support and information, which is readily available.

An Invitation to all

Everyone is very welcome here today so why not think about joining us again for Mass on Sundays or during the week – a time of peace and quiet and many blessings?

For more information or guidance please talk to Fr. Paul. You might also speak with one of the Welcoming Team in the narthex prior to Sunday Mass and we also have more information and external links on our website. www.stvincentsnorden.org.uk .

Usual Mass Times

Monday to Friday 9.30am

Saturday 12.00 noon

Sunday 6.30pm (Saturday vigil) and 9.00& 11.00am

Confessions: Sat. 12.00 to 1.00pm & 5.45pm to 6.15pm