

# SOLEMN MASS

The Mass lies at the centre of worship at St Michael's. Lead by the choir, this service is enhanced through the music of plainsong, polyphony and harmonic singing, the use of incense, the ringing of bells and the sprinkling of holy water, or *asperges*.

Solemn Mass at St Michael's is celebrated facing east according to the ancient tradition of the church. When the priest addresses the congregation, he turns to face them. When he prays to God, with them or on their behalf, he and the entire congregation face east. The Mass is offered in a manner which attempts to engage people at every level of their sensibility.

The service is followed by refreshments of tea, coffee, biscuits and wine.



Excerpt from the Summer Exhibition:

*Jesus did not often issue direct orders to his followers – he more often taught obliquely through parables. But on the night before he died he took bread and wine and said 'Do this in remembrance of me' – and so we do this through the celebration of Mass to show the Lord's death until he comes again.*

*We are not an audience hearing a concert, but we actively use music to aid our own mental prayer. We are not critics at a lecture, but a prayerful people trying to discern a message in the sermon. Our purpose is to bring the whole of our lives before God who made us and to whom we will return.*

