



NOTES ON CATHOLIC PRACTICE 2016/2017

**EXTRACTS FROM THE CODE OF CANON LAW,
PROMULGATED BY POPE JOHN PAUL II ON 25TH JANUARY 1983.**

MASS ATTENDANCE

Canon 1246. Sunday, on which by apostolic tradition the paschal mystery is celebrated, is to be observed in the universal Church as the primary day of obligation. The following feast days are also to be observed as holydays of obligation: the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, [The Epiphany, the Ascension, Corpus Christi], (Mary the Mother of God), (the Immaculate Conception) the Assumption, (St Joseph), the Apostles Peter and Paul and All Saints.*

Canon 1247. On Sundays and other holydays of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass. They are also to abstain from such work or business that would inhibit the worship to be given to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, or the due relaxation of mind and body.

Canon 1248. The obligation of participating in the Mass is satisfied by one who assists at Mass wherever it is celebrated in the Catholic rite, either on the holyday of obligation itself or on the evening of the previous day. If it is impossible to participate in a Eucharistic celebration, either because no sacred minister is available or for some other grave reason, the faithful are strongly recommended to take part in the liturgy of the Word, if there be such in the parish church or some other sacred place, which is celebrated in accordance with the provisions laid down by the diocesan Bishop, or to spend an appropriate time in prayer, whether personally or as a family or as occasion presents, in groups of families.

BAPTISM

Canon 867. §1 Parents are obliged to see that their infants are baptised within the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth, indeed even before it, they are to approach the parish priest to ask for the sacrament for their child, and to be themselves duly prepared for it. §2 If the infant is in danger of death, it is to be baptised without any delay.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Canon 798. Parents are to send their children to those schools which will provide for their Catholic education. If they cannot do this, they are bound to ensure the proper Catholic education of their children outside the school.

* Feast days shown inside round brackets are not days of obligation in England and Wales. Those in squared brackets have been transferred to the nearest Sunday in England and Wales.



NOTES ON CATHOLIC PRACTICE 2016/2017

EXTRACTS FROM THE CODE OF CANONS OF THE EASTERN CHURCHES

Canon 881

- 1 The Christian faithful are bound by the obligation to participate on Sundays and feast days in the Divine Liturgy, or according to the prescriptions or legitimate customs of their own Church, *sui iuris*, in the celebration of the divine praises.
- 2 In order for the Christian faithful to fulfil this obligation more easily, the available time runs from the evening of the vigil until the end of the Sunday or feast day.
- 3 The Christian faithful are strongly recommended to receive the Divine Eucharist on these days and indeed more frequently, even daily.
- 4 The Christian faithful should abstain from those labours or business matters which impede the worship to be rendered to God, the joy which is proper to the Lord's day, or to the proper relaxation of mind and body.

Canon 686

- 1 Parents are held to the obligation that the infant be baptized as soon as possible according to legitimate custom.
- 2 The pastor is to see that the parents of the infant to be baptized and those who are given the function of sponsor, be instructed as to the meaning of this sacrament and the obligations concerned with it and that they are prepared for an appropriate celebration of the sacrament.

Canon 633

Parents should send their children to Catholic schools, other things being equal.

EXTRACT FROM TRUST DEED FOR SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL

The school was founded by the Society of Sacred Heart and is part of the educational mission of the Catholic Church. The school is to be conducted as a Catholic School in accordance with the teachings and disciplines of the Roman Catholic Church, and in accordance with the characteristics of Sacred Heart education and the Trust Deed of the Society of the Sacred Heart, and, in particular:

- a) religious education is to be in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline and general and particular norms of the Catholic Church;
- b) religious worship is to be in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church;

and at all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ.