

## ABBEY CHURCH SERVICES.

### THE DAILY EUCHARIST OR MASS.

This is the most important service held in the Abbey Church. At this the **Last Supper of the Lord** together with His death and resurrection are commemorated. The structure of the service is of a **Penitential rite**, followed by **Readings from Scripture**, the **Preparation of the Gifts** of bread and wine, the **Consecration** of these gifts into the **Body and Blood of the Lord**, the **Communion** of the faithful and finally the blessing and dismissal.

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH.

Seven times each day the community celebrates the **Divine Office**. We praise God in the **Official Prayer of the Church** consisting of **hymns, psalms, canticles, readings and prayers**. The psalms are chanted by the monks on alternate sides of the **Church**. This prayer is offered for the community, the Church and the world. The whole book of psalms is recited during a two weekly cycle. Specific readings and prayers are said as appropriate to the Church's seasons of the year.

### BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

In keeping with an ancient tradition of the Church at certain times in the week the **Sacred Host**, the **Body of Christ** is exposed for our adoration. In this way we contemplate what we celebrate in the Mass. The **Sacred Host** is held up for our adoration by being placed in the **Monstrance**. At the end of the period of Adoration the priest makes the sign of the cross with the Sacred Host over the congregation. After that the **Sacred Host** is returned to the **Tabernacle**



**Everyone is warmly invited to attend any of the Abbey services.**

## GUIDE TO KOPUA ABBEY CHURCH AND SERVICES

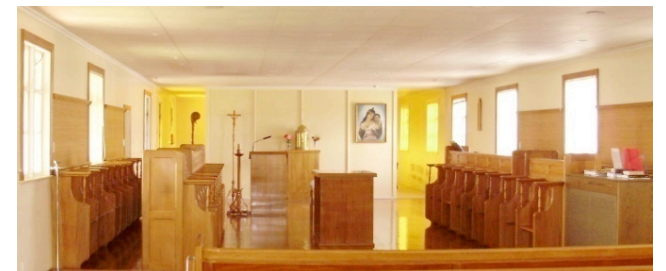


**SOUTHERN STAR ABBEY CHURCH**

On entering the **Abbey Church** the first thing encountered is the **table** for the **service books** and the **holy water stoup**. Holy water is used to bless ourselves in remembrance of our baptism. Next are the **pews** for the congregation.



To left and to right are the **Choir Stalls** used by the monks when chanting the **Divine Office**, the official **Prayer of the Church**. To the right is the **Organ** used to support the chanting.



Between the two sets of choir stalls is a high table. This is **the Altar** on which Mass is celebrated each day. It is during Mass that the bread and wine offered are consecrated to become the true Body and Blood of Christ. The people then take communion from this table.



On the left behind the altar is the **Lectern**. From here the scriptures and other writings are proclaimed during the **Mass** or the **Prayer of the Church**.



Between the altar and the lectern is **the Chair** used by the priest presiding at the **Eucharist** or other service.



On a small stand at the back of the church is **the Tabernacle**. The **Sacred Host**, the bread changed into the **Body of Christ** at **Mass** is kept in the **Tabernacle**. **Jesus** is truly present in the **Sacred Host**. Because of the **Lord's Presence**, when we enter or leave the church, or on moving from one side to the other, we all bow to the **Lord** present in the **Tabernacle**.



To the left of the Tabernacle is the processional **Crucifix** which is normally in place in its stand.

Just on the left at the entrance to the **Meditation Room** is the **Sanctuary Light**. This indicates that the **Lord** is present in the **Tabernacle**.



The **Meditation Room** is also used for the late morning **Mass**. The low table is used as the altar in the Meditation Room for this **Eucharist**. Both the presiding priest and the people sit for this celebration of the **Mass**.



On the left hand side of the back wall is another **Tabernacle** where the **Sacred Host** is kept. This allows us to feel very close to God in our meditation or contemplation.

