

*Use powerpoint 'Family Service – Jan 2014'*

*Slide 1 – St Andrew's Football Ground*

Can anyone tell me where this place is?

*Show Birmingham City scarf*

St Andrew's – home ground of Birmingham City Football Club.

*Show picture of mascot*

There can be some pretty scary supporters. In recent years we haven't had much to cheer about.

We did win the League Cup back in 2008

*Show picture of League Cup win*

I won't gloat about one side that was knocked out of the League Cup.

There aren't many supporters here in Howth – Maurice Bishop and I used to console each other on a Sunday morning. In fact you could say that to be a supporter of Birmingham City is to stand out as different from everyone else.

This morning I want to talk of ways of being different, of standing out in a crowd

*Show slide of two punks*

Some people dress differently and do their hair differently.

Then we are all different

*Go through slides of black, Asian, old and young*

God loves us all, no matter where we come from, how old we are – even how we dress.

*Show slide of two punks*

The difference we are talking about this morning is who we follow

*Show slide of follow me*

Lesson told of Baptism of Jesus – I want to think about our own Baptism. When we have a Baptism, at one point in the service I will say:

*In baptism, God calls us from darkness into his marvellous light.  
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.*

That means very consciously choosing – choosing different attitudes, different behaviours, different priorities in life in the sort of people we choose to be.

Bible talks about repentance – it uses a Greek word:

*show slide ‘metanoia’*

That's what John and Jesus meant when they told people to 'repent'  
Turn around, change direction, take a different journey through life

*Show slide of follow me*