

Sacraments of First Holy
Communion & Confirmation:
Parents' Introductory Meeting



Opening Prayer: a prayer for parents

Thank You, Lord, for the precious gift of our children. Because Your Word says that every good gift comes from You, we know that You have given them to us to care for and to raise as kind and loving people. Help us to do that.

Show us how we can continue to teach and inspire them, and give them Your protection, guidance, and counsel. Help us not to live in fear of possible dangers, but in the joy of every moment, knowing that they are a precious gift from you, to be supported, loved and treasured.

Amen.

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Important Dates
- Overview for parents
- About the Sacramental programs
- Any questions?
- Closing prayer

Important Dates

Mass of Commitment: has already taken place on the 1st October, 2023

Further Parents sessions: to be advised

First Reconciliation service: to be advised

First Holy Communion: Saturday 11th May 2024 @ 11am

Confirmation: Saturday 15th June 2022 @ 11am

Welcome & introductions

- Clergy: Father John
- RE team: Mrs. Scattergood
- Parish Liaison: Mrs. Massey
- Catechists: Mrs. Scattergood, Miss. Gilbert (Y3) and Mr. Spencer (Y6)

Sacramental Preparation at St. Mary's

- Preparation to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation should be seen as a lifelong commitment to the faith
- Work undertaken in the sessions at school should not be isolated, discussion around each unit will need to be re-affirmed at home
- Parents are encouraged to complete follow-up work/discussion in the booklets with the children after each school session

Regular attendance at Mass and preparation sessions is absolutely essential in nurturing faith and fully preparing children - passports are to be signed at each weekend Mass

About the Sacramental programmes

Preparation sessions

- **Year 3** - Children's sessions are all themed on The Eucharist and Reconciliation. Sessions will consist of discussion about their faith, studying related Bible passages, completing practical activities, prayer and opportunities for self-reflection
- **Year 6** - Whilst the children will receive support to prepare them for the Sacrament, it is important that children show commitment to their desire to be confirmed. It is the time for children to 'own their own faith', to be prepared to practise, stand up for and speak about what they believe in.

Preparation sessions Year 3

Reconciliation & Holy Communion

- The school and parish work closely together to prepare the children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.
- A lot of work is done in class to prepare the children for these Sacraments.
- Since Communicants are still young children, they need the support, guidance and commitment of parents too in order for their child to fully understand what their own commitment means.

Preparation sessions Year 6

Confirmation

- Preparation in school looks at children's spiritual identity and encourages children to explore their beliefs and their faith.
- Children will be looking at the first Pentecost day, when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples.
- Children will explore in detail the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how it might help us in our lives.
- Children will take confession during a reconciliation service in church (*during school time*). This will be a few weeks before the Sacrament of Confirmation.



Any questions?

Closing Prayer:

Come Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of Your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.

Send forth Your spirit and they shall be created and You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Amen

Thank you so much for
your time, support and
commitment to your
child's continued journey
of faith.

