

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: this will take place during the next Family Mass on 1st December 2024

Further Parents sessions: to be advised

First Reconciliation service: to be advised

First Holy Communion: Saturday 10th May 2025 @ 11am

Confirmation: Saturday 21st June 2025 @ 11am

Welcome & introductions

- Clergy: Father John
- RE team: Mrs. Scattergood
- Parish Liaison: Mrs. Massey
- Catechists: Mrs. Scattergood, Miss. Keeley (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

Sacramental Preparation at St. Mary's

- Father John has asked that, if you would like to enroll your child onto the sacraments, that you make an arrangement to speak with him prior to the Mass of commitment on the 1st December, either after Mass at a weekend
- Weekly attendance at Mass is important so that the children understand the commitment that they are making in regards to their faith journey; there will be a Mass attendance passport in place for each child, you will be able to obtain these, at church, during the Mass of commitment and then, if you bring them along to Mass each week, a member of staff or Father John will sign to record your committed attendance.

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 their parents too in order for them to fully understand what making a 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.

