



Friday 2 October, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your families are well at this time. I write to remind you of the date for your child's First Holy Communion. This will take place on Saturday, 17th October. There will be two Masses on this day and the class will be split to ensure that the celebration can go ahead in smaller numbers. Your child will celebrate their Holy Communion at 10 am.

In order to ensure that all families are safe please support the safety measures that have been put into place in Church.

I have outlined a few pieces of information for you to ensure the day runs smoothly.

- Please be in Our Lady's Church by 9.50 am at the latest on Saturday, 17th October.
- To ensure that we keep to the safety measures, as you know, the number of family members permitted to attend has been reduced. Children may attend the Mass with their **parents, grandparents and siblings only**. Each family will be allocated one bench (in alphabetical order). This will be labelled. If any of these are not members of the child's bubble, please let school know by contacting the office as soon as possible, as they will have to be seated separately. Please **DO NOT** leave this until the day of the communion as we may not be able to accommodate them due to church operating within strict distancing procedures.
- The children will sit with their families in the allocated bench.
- Throughout the Mass you will be invited to sit or stand at the appropriate times. You will not need to kneel at any point during the Mass, so please ensure that the kneeling benches are kept in an upright position throughout the service.
- There will be no offertory or readings by the children.
- Due to restrictions, singing is not permitted and will be replaced by recordings of hymns.
- When it is time for Holy Communion, each family in turn will be invited to receive Holy Communion or have a blessing. Staff will guide you to ensure that social distancing is adhered to throughout the Mass.
- Please ensure that the children are not wearing gloves or carrying any additional items into the pews with them (e.g. gloves or parasols) other than their First Communion medal provided by school. Please would parents kindly mind all these items for the children until after the Mass when they can then be worn for photographs.

- Father Tadhg has asked me to remind you that any photography or videoing is not allowed during the service.
- All mobile phones should be switched off on entering the Church.
- We would also ask that throughout the Holy Communion Mass, and at all other appropriate times, everyone plays his/her part to ensure that there is a respectful silence and reverence within the Church.

On Monday 19th October, 2020, the school’s official photographer has been booked to take both individual and group photographs in school. We would be grateful if you would bring your child to school on this morning dressed in his/her First Communion outfit ready for the photographs to be taken. They should bring to school a carrier bag containing their school uniform to change into afterwards. They should also bring a hanger to put their First Communion outfit onto when they change. They will bring their outfit home with them at the end of the school day.

I look forward to seeing you at Holy Communion and thank you in advance for your support in ensuring that this is a truly memorable step in your child’s journey of faith.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. S. Geddis
(Headteacher)



**DIOCESE OF SALFORD AND
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**