



## ST BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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CLIFTON CATHOLIC DIOCESAN TRUSTEES REGISTERED – Charity No. 233977

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2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope this finds you well! I am writing to you to introduce our First Holy Communion programme for 2017.

As you will remember, when your child was baptised, you promised, before God and the Church, to bring him/her up in the practice of the Catholic faith. You did this so that your child might grow up to be a prayerful, caring person, aware always of the love God has for him/her in Jesus Christ. There are many ways to do this, but, as you will know, ultimately they all find their deepest expression in the weekly gathering of the Christian community at the celebration of Sunday Mass. In the Mass, Christ's continued presence in the world is made available to us in the Word and the Eucharist. Pope Francis says of our participation at Mass:

*“The Eucharist is such a great gift. That's why going to Mass is so important. Going to Mass not just to pray, but to receive Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ. It saves us, forgives us and it makes us one with the Father. How beautiful!”*

First Holy Communion is a wonderful gift to the children of our parish. It is, hopefully, a stepping off point into a deeper life of faith as the children begin to become more aware of the beauty of the mystery of God's love for them. The need to prepare children well is also highlighted by Pope Francis:

*“It is so important for children to properly prepare for their First Holy Communion, so that there's no child without this Sacrament. The Eucharist is a firm step towards Jesus, along with Baptism and Confirmation.”*

Following prayer and discussion with the parish, I have decided that First Holy Communion preparation for 2017 will take place before the 10.30am Sunday Mass. The twelve main sessions will start promptly at 9.55am in the parish centre, following which the children will join the parish for Mass. This means that the children will be formed for their First Holy Communion in the heart of the worshipping community. Of course, having the whole praying community supporting the children not only benefits them, but also brings hope to the whole parish. It will be important that you remain on the premises during the teaching sessions and then, of course, be there with your child during Mass.

I attach an overview of the programme for you to peruse. A more detailed programme will be available later. We ask for a donation of £20 for each child being enrolled. This covers the cost of a book and other various items. All other expenses will be met by the parish.

## St Bernadette's First Holy Communion Programme 2017

Date	Activity	Date	Activity
Sun 18 Dec	Enrolment at Mass	Wed 29 Mar	First Confessions
Sun 15 Jan	Teaching 1 & Mass	Sun 2 Apr	Teaching 9 & Mass
Sun 22 Jan	Teaching 2 & Mass	Sun 23 Apr	Teaching 10 & Mass
Sun 29 Jan	Teaching 3 & Mass	Sun 30 Apr	Teaching 11 & Mass
Sun 5 Feb	Teaching 4 & Mass	Sunday 7 May	Teaching 12 & Mass
Sun 26 Feb	Teaching 5 & Mass	Fri 19 May	'Run-through for FHC Mass
Sun 5 Mar	Teaching 6 & Mass	Sat 20 May	<b>First Holy Communion Mass</b>
Sun 12 Mar	Teaching 7 & Mass	Sun 21 May	Mass with the whole parish
Sun 19 Mar	Teaching 8 & Mass		

As this is such a special Sacrament, attendance at all the teaching sessions and Masses is very important if your child is to make their First Holy Communion.

If you would like your child to be enrolled onto the programme, please fill in the form below, detach it and pop it in an envelope through the letterbox of the presbytery by the end of November.

Looking forward to hearing from you! With every good wish in Christ,

*Fr Matt*

Fr Matt Anscombe  
Parish Priest



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**St Bernadette's First Holy Communion 2017**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

School (if not St Bernadette's)

\_\_\_\_\_

Place and year of Baptism

\_\_\_\_\_

Parish (if not St Bernadette's) – *baptism certificate may be required*

\_\_\_\_\_

Any allergies or medical conditions that catechists need to know of?

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**DISPLAY PHOTOGRAPHS**

To conform with the current Data Protection Act and Child Protection, parental permission needs to be given for the display of any child's photograph. By ticking the box, you are giving permission for your child's photograph to be displayed for the duration of the First Holy Communion programme 2017.

Your name (Parent/Carer)

\_\_\_\_\_

Your email (required)

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*Please pop this form into an envelope and post through the door of the presbytery at 731 Wells Road*