



9th October, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of children in Year 5,

COVID-19 Guidelines

As we informed you earlier in the term and in light of updated COVID-19 guidelines, children are now only allowed to make their First Holy Communion **within the regular Sunday Mass**.

In order to do this **safely** in line with Diocesan guidance, the children will make their First Holy Communion in the regular celebration of **Sunday Mass at 11am**. Therefore, the service will follow the same guidelines as a Mass.

Unfortunately, due to social distancing measures and a reduced capacity in church, the number of people able to attend will be significantly less than normal with **'the rule of six'** being in operation. Therefore, each child will be given one pew and they can bring up to **5** other guests (this includes children) to sit with them.

The people who sit together in that pew should be from the **same household**, or part of a **social bubble**, as per government guidance.

You will, by now, have all received the date on which your child will be making their First Holy Communion.

Whilst the church hall still remains closed and, in light of current Government guidance and social distancing regulations, the children will enjoy their First Holy Communion breakfast in school, within their class bubble, once all pupils from the class have made their First Holy Communion. The School Photographer will take the children's photograph in their communion clothes both individually and as a class in church once all pupils have made their First Holy Communion.

Order of the Day - What will happen when you arrive at church?

On arrival at church, you will be greeted by a steward from church, who will administer hand sanitiser and show you to your seat. **All adults (unless exempt) must wear a face covering in line with Diocesan guidelines**. There will be 5 pews reserved in church each week for the 5 First Holy Communion children and their family bubble. In line with current Diocesan guidance, **these will now not be pre-allocated** but will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Father Martin has asked that the family bubble that will be sitting together in church arrive together and they will be shown to their seat together.

If other family members would like to attend, beyond your pew of 6 people, they can but please note that spaces are limited since this is also a Sunday Mass for the parish.

In line with current guidance, there will be no singing but music will be played throughout the Mass as normal.

Father Martin will give Holy Communion to the First Holy Communion children first.

Father Martin will also present the children with their certificates before the end of the Mass.

Due to current Diocesan guidelines, the children will **not** be reading in church as a deep clean of the lectern is required after each person has read and this is practically not possible within the confines of the Mass.

However, families will be invited to take photographs in church after Mass with each family bubble taking photographs one bubble at a time.

We will keep you updated of any additional information in the forthcoming weeks.

Preparation for First Holy Communion

Miss Elliott has been working with our First Holy Communion children since their return to school in September so our children are fully prepared to receive the sacrament on their allocated day.

We would like to thank you all for your patience, understanding and co-operation as we work safely within the confines of government and diocesan guidance and legislation.

With our very best wishes,

Father Martin Morris, Mrs Meldrum and Miss Elliott