



First Communion Arrangements

Dear Primary 5 Parent/ Carer,

We are looking forward to sharing with you in your child's celebration of First Holy Communion. Please find tickets enclosed for eight guests to attend the Mass. The date and time of your child's service are printed on the tickets. It is important that you read the guidelines below to ensure we can have a safe and joyful celebration of the sacrament.

- Churches have robust and well-established procedures for the safe celebration of Holy Mass, including registering names and contact details, hand sanitising and social distancing. In order to help us to gather contact details for each attendee, please ensure you write the full name and phone number of each guest on the back of their ticket. Tickets will be collected at the door as each guest arrives. Please do not invite any more than your allocated eight guests. Tickets must not be swapped or re-distributed to families of other children.
- In line with Paisley Diocese guidance adults are required to wear masks. Pupils are to wear masks on arrival, sit down and remove their mask for the duration of the Mass, including Communion. At the end of Mass pupils will put their mask back on to exit the Church with their family. If you wish your child to wear a mask for the duration of the Mass please instruct them to keep their mask on.
- Please arrive 10 minutes before your child's service is due to start. Staff and church volunteers will be on hand to direct you and your children to their allocated seats. You are invited to sit beside your child in their designated row in a "family bubble" and parents/ carers can accompany their child when they approach the priest to receive Holy Communion for the first time. If other guests from your eight allocated tickets are from a different family home, they should distance from your "family bubble" within the row.
- The social distancing regulation of two metres will apply both within the church and as families enter and leave the church, including when photographs are being taken. Please resist the natural impulse on such a happy occasion to mingle closely with other families.
- As with Sunday Masses, there will be no congregational singing or Mass booklets.
- School staff will take a group photograph inside the church to avoid family members and guests having to leave their seats. We will share these photographs with you. You are welcome to take photographs in the church grounds after the mass. Unfortunately, due to government social distance regulations, the priest and teachers may not be part of photographs.
- Families are politely requested to vacate the car park promptly after each mass to free up the church car park for the next service.
- A live stream of the service will be available on St. John's YouTube channel, which can be accessed via <https://www.stjohns-barrhead.org/>.

We will go over all of these arrangements with each group of children in school in advance of their service, but please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any other questions.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Hutcheson

Head Teacher