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Date: Wednesday, 09 September 2020



Education and Families

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Dear Parent/Carer

ARRANGEMENTS FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FOR CHILDREN IN PRIMARY 5 ST. COLUMBA'S PARISH

I know that many of you will be keen to know what arrangements have been put in place regarding those children, who are now in Primary 5, who were due to make their First Holy Communion in May 2020. As you know, a global pandemic and a national lockdown meant that this was not possible on the dates we had originally planned.

The following information is being sent out to you following confirmation from both of our Parish Priests – who ultimately make the decisions in respect of their own parishes.

There are a number of things we have had to consider when thinking about the plan for our P5 children and the way forward will be slightly different depending on which parish you attend.

If you have attended Mass in your parish lately (and the Bishops of Scotland have still lifted the obligation to attend Sunday Mass in person due to COVID-19) then you will know that things are very different. The Bishops' Conference of Scotland have put in place very strict and stringent Health and Safety Procedures to ensure that people are safe and that churches do not contribute to the spread of the virus.

Father Bogan has decided that First Communions will take place for P5 children **later in the school year** (perhaps in the Spring). There are a number of reasons for this decision and I pass these on to you on Father's behalf:

- St Columba's Church is still undergoing major refurbishment and Mass is currently taking place in the parish hall.
- The renovations came to a halt during lockdown and have only recently restarted. They are more than 5 months behind schedule.
- There are ongoing restrictions and limitations in place due to the pandemic.
- There is a limit of 50 people allowed in any church however, St. Columba's can only hold 20 people currently during the renovations.



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Father Bogan is happy to discuss any concerns or questions you might have and therefore, you should contact the parish should you require.

It is unfortunate that things are the way they are. First Holy Communion is a sacred encounter with the Lord Jesus and, as such, is a very special occasion for our families, our school and our parish.

We will continue to work alongside Father Bogan and St. Columba's Parish as we move towards this special day for the children.

With renewed good wishes,

Mr K Thomas
Head Teacher