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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. GABRIEL'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 Morris has decided that First Communions will take place for P5 on either Saturday 3rd October at 12noon or Sunday 4th October at 1:30pm. Please read the following information carefully so that you know what to expect:

- Due to number restrictions, a maximum of 8 children can make their First Holy Communion on any of the given dates.
- Places will be on a first-come-first-served basis.
- Only the child plus 2 adults from the family can attend the Mass (siblings can also attend). Everyone must be from the same household.
- Everyone who attends must wear a facemask (including the children). The Catholic Church in Scotland insists on this.
- There will be no singing.



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- Everyone must sanitize their hands on arrival.
- There will be no toilet facilities.
- Special arrangements for the distribution of Holy Communion will be in place.
- At the end of Mass, everyone should leave the church and there should be no congregating outside the church afterwards.
- There will be no photographer book for this occasion.

TO BOOK FOR MASS:

- You can call the school from **Thursday 10th September 2020** to indicate your choice.
- If there are no spaces at your chosen Mass, you will be required to take the alternative date. Otherwise, you should make a separate arrangement with Fr Morris.
- When booking, you must provide the name and contact details of all of the adults in your party (maximum of 2 adults per child).

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 Morris and St. Gabriel's Parish as we move towards this special day for the children.

Fr Morris is willing to answer any questions you might have and obviously the school staff will assist where possible.

With renewed good wishes,

Mr K Thomas
Head Teacher

