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Date: Thursday, 10 June 2021



Education and Families

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Dear Parent/Carer

ARRANGEMENTS FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FOR CHILDREN CURRENTLY IN P4 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 were due to make their First Holy Communion in May 2021. As you know, a global pandemic and a national lockdown meant that this was not possible at the usual time.

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 P4 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 this year's P4 children on either Saturday 11th September at 12noon or Sunday 12th September at 2pm. 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 allocated on a first-come-first-served basis (details below).
- Only the child plus 6 others from the family can attend the Mass (siblings should be included in this number). Everyone must be from the same household or bubble.



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TO BOOK YOUR MASS PREFERENCE:

- You can call the school from **8:30am Friday 11th June 2021** to indicate your choice. **Please do not leave a message on the school voicemail, just in case this is missed.**
- 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.

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.

We have to be prepared for things changing – this could be that they ease further and we may be able to have more people in the church. Equally, this could be that restrictions are tightened again and we need to reduce the number of people in the church. We pray that the latter is not the case!

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

CHILDREN WHO REQUIRE MAKE THEIR FIRST RECONCILIATION

If your child missed the opportunity to make their First Reconciliation (Confession) in P3, please do not worry. Father Morris will hear the Confession of all children prior to their First Communion during the week beginning 6th September 2021.

I trust that this information puts your mind at rest and that you can now look forward to this special day.

With renewed good wishes,

Mr K Thomas
Head Teacher