



13th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers of children in Year 5,

First Holy Communion Masses

As I informed the parents and carers of children still to make their First Holy Communion on Friday, these will now take place on either Tuesday 8th June or Friday 11th June at 6.00pm in St. John Vianney church.

The children will make their First Holy Communion in the celebration of Mass at 6.00pm. Therefore, the service will follow the same guidelines as a Mass and it will be based around the previous Sunday Mass of Corpus Christi.

Due to current legislation and Diocesan guidance, the 'rule of six' is still in operation. Therefore, each child will be given one pew and they can bring up to five 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. If other family members would like to attend, beyond your pew of 6 people, they can but they will sit with the congregation in the pews behind our First Holy Communion children.

Order of the Evening - What will happen when you arrive in 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. In line with current guidelines, the pews for our children will not be pre-allocated but they 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.

In line with current guidance, there will be no singing but Miss Elliott will play music 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.

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

Due to the unfortunate and unavoidable level of disruption families have had with COVID-19 impacting considerably on First Holy Communion, I would like to support families with this important Sacrament. If you would like to spend the day together, I will, as a one-off and sadly not to be repeated, authorise your child's absence from school on 8th or 11th June.

Dates for Children making their First Holy Communion in June 2021

The following children will make their First Holy Communion on the following days:

Tuesday 8th June or Friday 11th June 2021. Mrs Thorpe has now spoken to all parents with regards to their preference.

First Holy Communion Photographs

The Photographer has been booked for **Monday 14th June** and **Tuesday 15th June** to take the children's photographs both individually and as a class in church. Children should arrive at St. John Vianney church at **8.45am** in their **First Holy Communion clothes**. Please don't worry if dresses are a little neat, Mrs Meldrum and I will be on hand with safety pins to help!

The children in **Mrs Rutherford's class** should be dropped off at St. John Vianney church at **8.45am** on **Monday 14th June**.

The children in **Miss McMaster's class** should be dropped off at St. John Vianney church at **8.45am** on **Tuesday 15th June**.

First Holy Communion Party in School

Once the children have had their photographs taken, they will get changed into their **own clothes** and they will be walked back to school by Mrs Meldrum, their class teachers and myself. Children should bring a suitable bag to transport their communion outfit back to school.

The children will then celebrate making their First Holy Communion with a party day in school. We will provide the cake and party food for all of our children. If your child has a food allergy and you would like to provide a plate of party food yourself, then we are more than happy for you to do so.

Miss Elliott will continue to work with the First Holy Communion children who will be making the sacrament in June so our children will be fully prepared to receive the sacrament on their chosen day.

All children in Year 5 should wear their own clothes on either 14th June (Mrs Rutherford's class) or 15th June (Miss McMaster's class) as ALL children in Year 5, regardless of whether or not they have made their First Holy Communion, will take part in the Party Day with their class.

We continue to keep all of our Year 5 children in our prayers and we ask God to bless them all at this time.

With my very best wishes,

Mrs A.D. Thorpe
Headteacher