



St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

Hillhead Road
West Denton
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE5 1DN

Mrs A D Thorpe
Head Teacher

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1st October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware, children in Year 4 undertake the Sacrament of both First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Having spoken to Father Paul, we now have confirmed the relevant dates in his diary. We are now able to confirm what the children need to take part in to prepare for these most important Sacraments.

For many years, school has taken the lead when it comes to preparing the pupils in their sacramental preparation. This involves staff delivering a seven-session programme. Mr Bonnar has led this programme for several years and both he and Mr Peacock are going to do so again this year. Father Paul insists that your child must attend all seven sessions, the dates of which are outlined below. On these dates, your child will be asked to stay at school until 4:35pm. They will have a short 10-minute break and snack (For you to provide) on the playground and then attend their session. The children will collect their belongings from their classroom and be dismissed via the green gates at 4.35pm.

Dates	Session	Place
Thursday 6th November 2025	One	School 3:15pm – 4:35pm
Sunday 9 th November 2025		Church Mass
Thursday 4th December 2025	Two	School 3:15pm – 4:35pm
Sunday 7 th December 2025		Church Mass
Thursday 22nd January 2026	Three	School 3:15pm – 4:35pm
Sunday 25 th January 2026		Church Mass
Thursday 26th February 2026	Four	School 3:15pm – 4:35pm
Sunday 1 st March 2026		Church Mass
Thursday 19th March 2026	Five	School 3:15pm – 4:35pm
Sunday 22 nd March 2026		Church Mass
Thursday 23rd April 2026	Six	School 3:15pm – 4:35pm
Sunday 26 th April 2026		Church Mass
Thursday 30th April 2026	Seven	School 3:15pm – 4:35pm
Sunday 3 rd May 2026		Church Mass

In addition to the above seven school-based sessions and the seven Sunday masses, there are also the following two church-based sessions.

The dates for First Reconciliation are as follows:
Friday 30th January 2026 at 2pm for children in Mr Bonnar's class.
Friday 6th February 2026 at 2pm for children in Mr Peacock's class.

The dates for First Holy Communion itself are as follows:
Saturday 9th May 2025 at 10am for children in Mr Bonnar's class.
Saturday 16th May 2025 at 10am for children in Mr Peacock's class.

It should be noted that prior to your child being accepted onto this sacramental programme, school must have received a copy of their Catholic baptismal certificate and Father Paul must have confirmed your home address as being within the parish community. Please could you provide him with appropriate evidence to prove your home address, by Friday 24th October. He has also stipulated that he expects every family to attend Holy Mass on the weekend of each school-base session. For example, following the session on Thursday 6th November, you should attend Mass on Sunday 9th November.

Should you have any specific questions about anything outlined in this letter, then please don't hesitate to contact Mr Bonnar (for anything school based) or speak to Father Paul directly (for anything related to your home address confirmation, proof of your child's Baptism or any queries related to attendance at Holy Mass on the weekend).

Please complete the slip below and return it to school as soon as possible.

Best wishes,

Mrs A D Thorpe

Mrs A D Thorpe
Headteacher

First Holy Communion 2025-2026

I would like my child to make their First Holy Communion at St John Vianney

Child's Name: _____

Child's Date of Birth: _____

Date of Baptism and the Parish where your child was Baptised:

Name of Parent/Carer: _____

Signature of Parent/Carer: _____

(Please return to school by **Friday 24th October 2025** with a copy of your child's Baptism Certificate)
