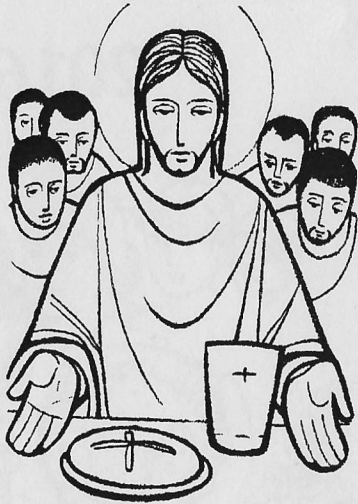


First Communion Programme

In the Liturgy of the Mass we express our faith in the real presence of Christ under the species of bread and wine. Our senses do not understand how, but our faith and the teaching of the church tells us that Christ chose to remain present to His Church in this unique way.

Jesus wanted us to have the memorial of his love and the greatest sacrifice when he gave his own life for us.

Our Parish is now preparing children to meet Jesus for the first time in two unique Sacraments. These are the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Penance (Confession) and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. If you would like your child to take part in this course of learning and understanding, please first check that you and your child will be able to fulfill all of the preparation requirements.



When does the Course take place?

The time of preparation for these Sacraments takes place between October 2015 and June 2016.

The Enrolment Mass will take place in October. We try to avoid as much as possible school and public holidays. The children will meet on Saturday mornings for one hour every month. These meetings will take place in Greyfriars (the parish hall) from 9.30am to 10.30am.

What is the Course about?

The children follow a well established course, taught by parish Catechists. The course is called 'We Celebrate the Eucharist'. The book contains 9 chapters, each covering areas of what receiving the Eucharist means. The course encourages the children to understand how we can forgive each other, how we can make peace and how God forgives. After this the children learn how the beauty of creation shows us God's love for all people. The Eucharist, as a meal shared by all Jesus' friends, highlights the importance of Holy Communion, saying prayers and worshipping God.

What is necessary to take part?

All children in Year 3 or above in primary school are very welcome to join this course. They should be baptized Catholic and attend Sunday Mass every week. Older children are also welcome.

What can parents do?

The role of the parents in encouraging and supporting their children is indispensable. We know that parents are the first and best of teachers. The role of the Catechists and the Church is to support the work of parents in bringing up their children to follow Christ. We ask parents to take a keen interest in the work done by their children and support the Catechists.



In addition to the first-Parent's meeting, both parents are asked to attend further meetings where the course and Church teaching can be unfolded and understood. These meetings have been found by parents to be very beneficial. There will also be a general meeting in May for parents to arrange the First Communion Liturgy and the 'Going Forth' party.