

Holy Family RC Primary School



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Prior Street
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Thursday 28th September, 2017

Dear Parent,

Many thanks for expressing an interest in your child receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. To assist you in your decision, the Diocese has offered the following indicators of readiness:

Sacrament of Reconciliation

In their own way, your child

- Knows that God loves them and is always ready to forgive no matter what;
- Knows and understands what is meant by sin;
- Is able to reflect on their own behaviour;
- Wants to express sorrow and make amends;
- Appreciates the place and importance of Reconciliation

Sacrament of First Holy Communion

In their own way, your child

- Knows about Jesus, prays to him and wants to receive Communion with him and his family the Church;
- Shows reverence and respect;
- Knows the difference between Holy Communion and ordinary food;
- Is attentive and aware of what is happening during Mass;
- Has some sense of belonging to the parish family.

Obviously, the ideas presented in these indicators of readiness will be further explored and developed with the children during the parish catechetical sessions, through the school's Religious Education lessons and through your own parental input.

Should you wish to present your child for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy communion, please complete and return the slip below, by Monday 2 October 2017.

All returned slips should be accompanied by proof of Baptism or formal reception into the Catholic Church (photocopies can be made in the school office).

Entrusting you to the hearts of Jesus and Mary and to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Fr D. Russell Mrs F. Cole, Mr A Cole, Mrs J. Brown, Miss S. Lundrigan, Mrs J. Wilson
Parish Priest Parish Catechists Head Teacher

I wish to present(child's full name)
for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

Signed:..... Date:.....

Print name:..... Relationship to child:.....

(Please return to Holy Family School Office)

"encourage all children to see Christ in themselves and others in a caring environment"



Timetable for Preparation Sessions and Masses 2017-2018

The obligatory Preparation Sessions will take place after School time in the Parish Centre next door on the following **Wednesday afternoons, 3.30pm – 4.30pm**

Session 1: theme 'Gathering' **11th October 2017**

Liturgy 1: Sunday 15th October, 9.00am Mass

Session 2: 'Baptism' **8th November 2017**

Liturgy 2: Sunday 12th November (Remembrance Sunday), 9.00am Mass

Session 3: 'Liturgy of the Word' **6th December 2017**

Liturgy 3: Sunday 10th December, 9.00am Mass

Session 4: 'Reconciliation' **17th January 2018**

Liturgy 4: Sunday 21st January, 9.00am Mass

**N.B. First Reconciliation Celebration: Thursday 25th January 2018, 6.00pm
at St Thomas Aquinas Church, North Road, Darlington**

Session 5: 'Offertory' **21st February 2018**

Liturgy 5; Sunday 25th February, 9.00am Mass

Session 6: 'Give Thanks' **14th March 2018**

Liturgy 6: Sunday 18th March, 9.00am Mass

Session 7: 'Take and Eat' **9th May 2018**

Liturgy 7: Sunday 13th May, 9.00am Mass

Session 8: 'First Holy Communion Mass and celebration' **Saturday 9th June 10.30am**

Liturgy 8: Sunday **10th June**, 9.00am Mass, children join parishioners in Thanksgiving

Session 9: 'Sending Out' **13th June 2018**

Liturgy 9: Sunday **17th June Father's Day**, 9.00am Mass

COMMITMENT TO THE SESSIONS AND SUNDAY MASS

In life we all make time and choices for those things we really think important no matter how busy we are. The bottom line is if children, for whatever reason, miss out more than TWO out of the NINE Sessions and weekend Masses, they will be deferred to the following year's preparation programme. There are no catch-up Sessions, each build on the other, so it is important to make these dates top priority. In any absence please ring Fr David on 01325 463636; no communication will be taken as read as no longer interested in going forward with preparation. If parents or child feel they cannot make this commitment because of other priorities it may be a sign that you're not ready, and better to defer till another opportunity.

I look forward to meeting you and your child along with our Catechists.

Best regards Fr David Russell,
St Thomas Aquinas and Holy Family parishes, Darlington