

## Holy Family and St Thomas Aquinas Parishes

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### First Holy Communion Day Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Mass begins 10.30am

Dear Parents,

I'm looking forward to the milestone celebration of Holy Communion with your children, and their continuing journey of faith with Christ in the sacraments in the years to come. Many thanks to our parish catechists Mr and Mrs Cole, Mrs Lundrigan and Mrs Brown for their work, and Mrs Hewins the children's class teacher: together they have helped our children understand and be prepared to receive Jesus Christ and to get to know him personally in a new way. Please do continue yourselves in bringing children regularly to Mass at weekends to further develop their relationship with God and the rest of the parish community.

The big difference in this year's celebrations is accommodating the taking of official photographs of the children on the day of the celebrations. The timetable has been developed after a lot of consideration given time constraints. The group photograph will take place at 10.00am in the church, after which the doors will be opened for yourselves and guests to enter and settle in the allocated seats. There will be one further practice with the children on the afternoon of 6 June: I'll be in the Parish Centre as school children leave for home for any parents who want to ask last minute questions from 3.30pm till 4.00pm. Let's hope for good weather on the day.

In the meantime some frequently asked questions:

**What to wear:** boys traditionally wear dark trousers, white shirt and red tie; girls wear communion dress: accessories like hand gloves need to be taken off when it comes to receiving Our Lord in the hand.

**Photographs:** the photographer will start 9.15am in church: parents please keep to the allocated times; the group photo will take place at 10.00am inside church. No other photography allowed for Safeguarding reasons. The church will remain closed until photographs have finished at 10.15am.

**Timings:** please see attached timetable. It is important for your child to arrive at the church sacristy door in time. The group will be divided into three,

with the boys in early group for individual photographs. If your child is in the earlier group it may be better, after dropping off, to return home come back to church nearer the 10.15am opening. Alternatively the Parish Centre will be open for people to gather and wait.

**Car Parking:** please park your car and advise your guests to park either on Prior Street, on The Green, or behind the Co-op store. There are only 12 spaces around the church reserved for disabled guests. The School grounds will not be available for parking.

**Disabled Access:** to the church via main front doors; to the Parish centre via the driveway and bear right of the school fence, up pathway and into the Centre through fire door.

**Toilets:** we have one toilet beyond the church sacristy, and ladies/gents toilets in the Parish Centre.

Thank you to the parish volunteers who have prepared the First Communion breakfast: I'd like you to consider volunteering for this part of the celebrations for next year's children as there aren't many parish volunteers these days. Thank you also to Mrs Josie Wilson and all our dedicated teachers and staff of Holy Family school for all their work and support.

Finally thank you for encouraging and helping your children grow in faith and in God's love. We hope you all have an enjoyable and memorable day, and look forward for you to become active members of our Holy Family parish. **If you have any queries please ring or email me (contact under letter heading). Please be patient with any reply as I have many other ongoing jobs and commitments including hospital work – I live and work from St Thomas's presbytery, not Holy Family presbytery.**

**Kind regards and many blessings for your family,**

*David Russell*

**Fr David Russell**

**(Serving in the eight parishes of Hogarth Partnership)**

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