

Dear Parent and Guardian,

Many thanks for expressing an interest in your child receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. **Your child needs to have already been baptised into the Catholic Church: contact Fr David immediately if this is not the case.** 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. 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, Miss S. Lundrigan, Mrs Amy Kay,  
Parish Priest        Parish Catechists

Mrs J. Weatherall  
Head Teacher

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I wish to present .....(child's full name)  
for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. ( please post copy of  
Baptism certificate to Fr David at St Thomas's address in Darlington)

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

Print name:..... Relationship to child:.....  
(Please return to Holy Family School Office)