

Sacraments of First Holy  
Communion & Confirmation:  
Parents' Introductory Meeting



# Opening Prayer: a prayer for parents

Thank You, Lord, for the precious gift of our children. Because Your Word says that every good gift comes from You, we know that You have given them to us to care for and to raise as kind and loving people. Help us to do that.

Show us how we can continue to teach and inspire them, and give them Your protection, guidance, and counsel. Help us not to live in fear of possible dangers, but in the joy of every moment, knowing that they are a precious gift from you, to be supported, loved and treasured.

Amen.

# Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Important Dates
- Overview for parents
- About the Sacramental programs
- Any questions?
- Closing prayer

# Important Dates

**Mass of Commitment:** this will take place during the next Family Mass on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026

@ 10am

**Further Parents sessions:** to be advised

**First Reconciliation service:** to be advised

**First Holy Communion:** Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026

@ 11am

**Confirmation:** Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026

@ 11am

# Welcome & introductions

- Clergy: Father John
- RE team: Mrs. Scattergood
- Parish Liaison: Mrs. Massey
- Catechists: Mrs. Scattergood, Miss. Kealey (Y3) and Mr. Spencer (Y6)

# Sacramental Preparation at St. Mary's

- Preparation to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation should be seen as a lifelong commitment to the faith
- Work undertaken in the sessions at school should not be isolated, discussion around each unit will need to be re-affirmed at home
- Parents are encouraged to complete follow-up work/discussion in the booklets with the children after each school session

## Sacramental Preparation at St. Mary's

- Father John has asked that, if you would like to enroll your child onto the sacraments, that you make an arrangement to speak with him prior to the Mass of commitment on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, after Mass at a weekend.
- **Weekly attendance at Mass is important** so that the children understand the commitment that they are making in regards to their faith journey; there will be a Mass attendance passport in place for each child, (you will be able to obtain these), at church, during the Mass of Commitment and then, if you bring them along to Mass each week, a member of school staff or Father John will sign to record your committed attendance.

# About the Sacramental programmes

## Preparation sessions

- **Year 3** - Children's sessions are all themed on The Eucharist and Reconciliation. Sessions will consist of discussion about their faith, studying related Bible passages, completing practical activities, prayer and opportunities for self-reflection
- **Year 6** - Whilst the children will receive support to prepare them for the Sacrament, it is important that children show commitment to their desire to be confirmed. It is the time for children to 'own their own faith', to be prepared to practise, stand up for and speak about what they believe in.

# Preparation sessions Year 3

## Reconciliation & Holy Communion

- The school and parish work closely together to prepare the children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.
- A lot of work is done in class to prepare the children for these Sacraments.
- Since Communicants are still young children, they need the support, guidance and commitment of their parents too in order for them to fully understand what making a commitment means.

# Preparation sessions Year 6

## Confirmation

- Preparation in school looks at children's spiritual identity and encourages children to explore their beliefs and their faith.
- Children will be looking at the first Pentecost day, when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples.
- Children will explore, in detail, the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how it might help us in our lives.
- Children will take confession during a reconciliation service in church (*during school time*); this will be a few weeks before the Sacrament of Confirmation.

# Altar Serving...

- Father John would welcome any child, after Holy Communion, who is thinking about becoming an Altar Server at church. It would be great if, as a family, you could commit to a weekend Mass to support Father in this very important ministry.
- Your child would be trained to accompany Father, at the Altar, during school Masses too.
- If you and your child are interested in this very special ministry, please let me, Father John or Mrs. Massey know.

# Faith Reflection...

- As a school, we offer a series of sessions aimed at you, as parents, to reflect upon your own faith.
- These sessions will provide you with an opportunity to be reflective on your own faith journey so far and equip you with a mind-set to support your child at this really important stage of their faith journey.
- If you are interested in these sessions, please let me know if you would prefer to be offered after school or during the school day sessions.



Any questions?

# Closing Prayer:

Come Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of Your faithful  
and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.

Send forth Your spirit and they shall be created and  
You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct  
the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same  
Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His  
consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Amen

Thank you so much for  
your time, support and  
commitment to your  
child's continued journey  
of faith.

