



ST PETER'S RC CHURCH

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2018-19

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to St. Peter's RC First Holy Communion registration.

First Holy Communion is a wonderful moment in a child's life and represents a sign of growth in the knowledge and love of God for each and every child. Parents who bring their child or children for First Holy Communion are fulfilling the vow they made publicly at their child's baptism some years before to be the "first and best teachers of their child in the ways of faith".

Before you register your child to receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion, please reflect on the following questions:

1. Am I practicing Catholic and wish to continue to grow with my child in faith?
2. Can I commit to the programme and support my child fully?
3. Why do I want my child to receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion?

All parents will be expected to attend a number of meetings during the year. Parents must ensure that they and their children attend punctually all the preparations classes, which take place at St Peter's Parish Hall.

No child will be denied First Holy Communion; however, children who miss two or at most three sessions will have missed key catechesis. In such cases and after discussion with catechists and parents, the parish priest may remove a child from the course and invite parents to reapply for the following year. Sports events, parties and other such competing attractions must come second to First Holy Communion preparation and the regular attendance of Mass during the First Holy Communion year.

To be considered for the programme, you must live with the boundary of St. Peter's RC church – see attached list and be a regular practicing Catholic at St. Peter's.

Attendance at preparation course

We want your child to enjoy this preparation time and ask you to look on it as an opportunity for your family, to grow in faith and in your knowledge and love of God, together.

Each child must be accompanied by a parent or grandparent, and not a friend of the family. It is important that families attend all sessions. You and your child are asked to plan ahead to ensure that this happens.

Your role as parents

First Holy Communion is a special time when your children are welcomed into the body of the Church and begin to take a more active part in the community.

As parent, you have the most important role in the preparation process, which is primarily to:

- accompany your child to Mass
- pray for and with your child
- witness to your faith by family lifestyle and conversation
- attend the diarised catechetical sessions with them

Your support and encouragement during the process is vital to your child's faith development. Please remember that sports events, parties and other such competing attractions must come second to the First Holy Communion preparation.

Next steps

Complete the attached registration form and return to the presbytery **during office hours**, no later than **15th July 2018** ensuring you have included copies of **ALL** documents required (copy of : **child baptism certificate, confirmation of address – bill dated within the last 3 months**) .

You will only be contacted if your application was unsuccessful.

Please check the bulletin regularly for updates regarding the initial parent meeting which should be held sometime in September 2018.