

From: Pastoral Team and Catechists

To: Parents preparing their children for their Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Dear Parents

Welcome to SS. Joseph & Swithun's Reconciliation & First Holy Communion Preparation. On behalf of the catechists we are delighted to welcome you and your child as we look forward to accompanying your family on this significant stage of your child's faith journey.

The Sacraments of Reconciliation & First Holy Communion are important sacraments for your child, for all your family and indeed for our Church and the whole community to which we belong. We wish you every blessing as we embark on this journey together.

If there is any further information you need now or as the course develops please contact your catechists or speak to one of them at the end of the weekly sessions. Alternatively, you can of course speak to Fr Peter, Deacon Garry or Lolly Bell at any time.

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.

We ask you and your child for all your support and co-operation to help make this preparation time a blessing for us all.

With all God's Blessing

Pastoral Team and Catechists

Parish Policy

The parish recognizes that you are the primary teachers of your children in their faith and it is our sincere desire to work alongside you and your child to prepare for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion which are important steps in the life of your child.

Parents Role

As parents 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 your family lifestyle and conversation;
- ♥ prepare for and attend the diarised preparation sessions with them.

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

First Reconciliation

Reconciliation is a special sacrament of healing and forgiveness. It will help your children to grow in awareness of the choices they make and enable them to feel closer to God.

First Holy Communion

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 parish community.

Resources

All the resources you and your child need will be provided at the Parents' Retreat Day.* It is essential that each family bring their **Bible, folder, pencils and prayer book** to every session and that you encourage your child to use their **Little Missal** during Mass.

**We will advise you of the cost in advance.*

Attendance

Each child must be accompanied by a parent or grandparent, 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. **If your child is unwell or there is a valid reason why you cannot attend please let your catechist know in advance of the session.** We will provide resources for you and your child, and we ask parents to prepare at home in advance of each session.

All **follow-up home activities** should be completed as this is a vital part of the process – giving you and your child an opportunity for quiet time together with each other and with God.

For child protection purposes a register will be taken at each session and if your child misses two sessions in a term you will be asked to contact Deacon Garry to discuss this.

Sessions will begin on time. We ask everyone to be punctual for all sessions in consideration of others in your group. If you arrive late, you not only disrupt the class but you may miss a vital part of the preparation.

Please support your catechists as much as possible; they give their time freely to support you and your children and this preparation course cannot be provided without their time and effort.

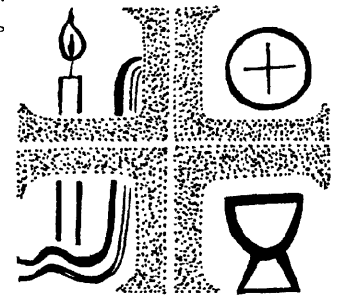
For any further guidance or help please contact your catechist.

SS Joseph & Swithun Parish, Bromley

Sacramental Preparation

Growing up Catholic

Reconciliation and
First Holy Communion
Programme.



Parents Information Evening