

Our Lady's Church
54 Lodge Road, NW8 8LA
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6 November 2020

Dear Parents

Thank you for expressing an interest in our parish's First Holy Communion programme. I hope that your children and you enjoy it. Please review the topics the children cover in class every week with them and do the little bit of homework – catechesis is essential for all of us at every stage in life and will help to fulfil the public promise you made at your child's Baptism to be "the first and best teachers of the faith". And do take time every now and then to thank the catechists for their marvellous dedication and generosity of heart.

Fully completed forms must be returned with a copy of the candidate's Baptismal certificate via email to stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk or posted through the Rectory door by 12 noon on Tuesday 8 December 2020.

The first meeting for at least one parent or guardian will be at 12:00 noon on Saturday 12 December in the church.

To aid social distancing, the classes for the children will be held in the church from 12:00 noon to 1:00pm (prompt start, sharp finish) on the following dates in 2021 -

January – 9, 16, 23, 30

February – 6, 27

March – 6, 13, 20, 27

April – 24

May – 8, 15

There will also be meetings for parents on 6 February and 8 May from 12:00 noon to 1:00pm in the parish hall. At least one parent must attend each meeting.

First Holy Communion Masses in 2021 will take place on:

Saturday 22 May at 12:00 noon (Rehearsal Thursday 20 May, 5:00pm)

Saturday 22 May at 2:00pm (Rehearsal Thursday 20 May, 6:00pm)

Saturday 29 May at 12:00 noon (Rehearsal Thursday 27 May, 5:00pm)

Saturday 29 May at 2:00pm (Rehearsal Thursday 27 May, 6:00pm)

You may choose whichever First Holy Communion date you would like.

On Sunday 6 June, the Solemnity of *Corpus Christi*, we invite all children who have made their First Holy Communion in 2021 to come to the 12 noon Mass and participate in a Blessed Sacrament procession afterwards.

Please:

1. Check all these dates and times with you and your child's diary/calendar and make a time to see me if there should be any difficulty with 100% attendance.
2. Absences should be reported to the parish office. We will then email the worksheets to you for your child to catch-up with you at home and we will see you the following week at 11:00am before the next class. All children coming to catch-up need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Similarly, if no parental representative is at the adult meetings, this will be repeated the following Saturday at 11:00am. If you experience difficulties on a regular basis or your schedule is a bit too tight for the normal classes we can meet to try and find a way forward to ensure that, in accordance with the instructions of Cardinal Nichols, your child is fully prepared to receive this Sacrament in due course.
3. When the classes finish at 1:00pm please collect your child promptly as the catechists and clergy will be desperate for a cup of tea...or possibly something stronger.

I am sure you will understand that these plans are all subject to government guidelines. Should we need to change anything we will let you know as soon as possible. Please note that we will not be communicating using media requiring the sharing of our mobile telephone numbers. Therefore, you need to provide a reliable email address that you check regularly.

Above all else, try to enjoy the coming months as we all seek to deepen our faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

As always, be assured of my prayers and my kindest regards and do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything you would like to discuss.

Fr Kevin Jordan