



# Parish of St John the Evangelist

470 Falls Road  
Belfast  
BT12 6EN  
02890314112  
stjohns@downandconnor.org  
www.stjohnsfallsroad.com  
www.facebook.com/stjohnsparishfallsroad



Parish of St John the Evangelist

Diocese of Down & Connor

## First Holy Communion 2020

28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents,

First of all, thank you so much to those of you who have been to Mass over these last 4 weeks in preparation for your child's First Holy Communion. Thanks also to those who have been unable to join us in the church and have been watching online. We really appreciate your engagement in this preparation by your attendance, completion of the homework tasks, by sending us pictures of your child's artwork and encouraging your child to take part. We have been blessed by your co-operation. It has been a real pleasure to meet with you and the children each week.

As we move closer to your child's First Communion day we would now like to set out the options for your child to receive First Holy Communion. If you believe your child is now prepared and ready to receive Holy Communion for the first time, they may receive the Sacrament with their class from St Kevin's Primary School in St John's Church at the following dates and times:

- |         |                                    |                                  |
|---------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 10.30am | Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> September | Miss Tierney's previous P4 class |
| 1pm     | Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> September | Mrs Keenan's previous P4 class   |
| 1pm     | Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> September   | Miss Devine's previous P4 class  |

Children may only be accompanied by **two** adults. **No** other adults or children will be allowed in the church.

For those parents who don't think their child is prepared and ready for First Communion or would prefer to wait until a later date for whatever reason, we can offer the following alternatives:

- to receive the Sacrament of First Communion at either a Sunday or weekday Mass, with prior notice to myself to reserve a seat for the family. There will only be one first communicant at any Mass.
- possibly defer your child's reception of the Sacrament and join with next year's P4 children
- a time of your choosing in consultation with the parish.

**Please note** ; if your child is unwell on the day of First Communion or anyone in your household has been told to quarantine, you **MUST NOT** come to the church. Please contact us and we will make any of the above alternative arrangements for you.

## First Communion Day Arrangements

The school car park will be open. You cannot park in the church grounds.

Adults and children should arrive at the church at least 15 minutes before the beginning of the ceremony to be seated. A seating plan will be in use so please be patient as you wait to be shown to your space.

Please observe social distancing while waiting and upon entry to the Church.

Everyone should sanitise their hands on entering the church. **ALL adults should wear a visor or facemask.** Children may also wear face masks or visors if they want to.

Stewards will show you to your seat. Once seated, adults **must** remain in their designated seat throughout the ceremony.

During the First Holy Communion Mass we will try to involve some children where possible eg. in bringing up items for the Sacred Space or reading a prayer.

The music for the Mass will be provided by the teachers. Congregational singing is regrettably not encouraged at this time.

The two accompanying adults will bring their child/children to the altar to receive the Eucharist.

When Mass concludes each family is asked to remain in their seat until invited to leave the church by the stewards.

Please note there will be **NO** photography allowed in the Church.

There is **NO** access to toilet facilities in the Church.

Grandparents, brothers and sisters, family and friends are invited to watch the Mass live on our parish YouTube channel. (YouTube - St John the Evangelist Parish Falls Road, Belfast).

These are extra-ordinary times and in the circumstances we hope to give your child the best celebration possible. Please help us by following the guidelines in place at St John's Church and in St Kevin's Primary School along with current public health advice.

If you feel your child would benefit from a visit to the church beforehand at a quiet time, please let us know as we are happy to arrange this.

If you need to contact us please PM the Parish Facebook page, email [stjohns@downandconnor.org](mailto:stjohns@downandconnor.org) or speak to us after Mass this weekend.

God Bless.

Fr Martin and the Parish team

