

Families of last year's P3 and P4 classes or families with a child in any of the classes P3, P4, P5, P6 and P7 this year who wish that child to celebrate one or more of the Sacraments of RECONCILIATION, EUCHARIST or CONFIRMATION between now and June 2021, in order to nourish the spiritual life of your child please either register for inclusion in attendance at Mass on either Saturday or Sunday as soon as the number of people able to attend is increased, **OR commit to following Mass on line at 10.30 each Sunday morning.**

This week, on 18th August, Bishop Toal wrote to the priests of the Diocese:

Some Parish Priests have gone ahead with arrangements for [First Reconciliation] and First Communion through the rest of this year, working within the present guidelines. I give my permission for [First Reconciliation] and First Holy Communion to be celebrated when each Parish Priest decides that they wish them to go ahead, in consultation with schools. Due to the restrictions on numbers and other regulations, some priests may deem it prudent to wait longer, therefore it would be good to tell parents and teachers [if] that is what will happen.

Inevitably some aspects of First Communion Masses will have to be omitted as the present guidelines for worship in our churches are followed and these should be well explained to families and adhered to by each priest. The First Communion Masses are a Parish celebration, so the Church's present guidelines should be followed.

Following on receipt of this letter from the bishop, Fr. Ness has agreed with Mrs. Oates to complete the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the children from P3 who are now in P4, in the week beginning 21st September.

On 19th March this had involved thirty children. It now involves those twenty-five children whose parents have written to Fr. Ness to say they still wish their child to celebrate this Sacrament.

First Reconciliation will be celebrated in the church in separate groups, each of six children and one of seven. Two adults can attend with each child. Two groups of six children will celebrate the Sacrament in succession in simple short Services on one of two evenings during that week. The two Services will follow in succession on each evening with a gap to allow the church to be cleaned and to avoid an overlap as one group leaves and another group arrives. The exact dates for these evenings between Monday and Thursday of that week and the times will be set when Fr. Ness checks the availability of stewards who are needed to direct the families and clean the church.

First Holy Communion: on 30th May thirty-three children from P4 were to celebrate this Sacrament. Of those children, twenty-nine families have written to Fr. Ness to say they still wish their child now in P5 to celebrate the Sacrament. Preparation in the School with these children will begin no later than 7th September. **In the parish the spiritual preparation through engagement with the families will begin immediately.**

The [First] Communion Masses: will involve groups of six children and will be celebrated in the period between sixth November and thirtieth November. The parents and the siblings of the six children will be able to participate at the Mass with the child. They will be able to sit with the child in their allocated seating. The dates and times for these Masses will be set once Fr. Ness checks the availability of stewards and will be set against the existing timetable for Mass within the parish both during midweek and at the weekend.