

Dear Children,

We are delighted that you are joining us on this programme leading to your First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

This is your special time. Your family, your friends, the teachers in the programme and all the people in the parish are wishing you well as you prepare for two very important days. We all hope that you will learn a lot from this programme. Undoubtedly the most special person you will begin to know more is Jesus. Jesus changes our lives and helps us to be happy.

You will probably have lots of questions about your First Holy Communion Programme. Hopefully we have answered them below.

Who will be there?

There will be many children making their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

Your Mum or Dad or Special Person coming with you, will also be there. Together, you will journey through the programme.

There will be a lead Catechist (that's the posh word for leader) and helpers. They organise your sessions and explain to you what you need to know.

What will we do in our Sessions?

At each meeting, you will be given a special booklet, which you will work through in your sessions and at home.

You will be doing all kinds of things - you will be:

- Listening
- Drawing
- Talking
- Thinking
- Reading
- Role plays
- Making things
- Saying prayers together

We would like you to learn but also we would like you to have fun!

Remember this a special time and an opportunity to come closer to friends and Jesus. Not attending prevents all of this and so we need you!

What do I need to bring with me?

You need to bring a pencil case with colouring pens and pencils.

Will I have work to do at home?

The special booklet is there to help you remember what you learnt in your sessions. It will also give you some activities to do at home, so you can carry on thinking about what you have learnt. These activities are not hard work and you don't have to do them on your own! In fact, we want you to do them with your Mum or Dad or Special Person. Together, you will make a great team!

How many sessions do we have and where do we meet?

There are 9 sessions in total from September to April. In May you will celebrate your First Holy Communion. Most of these sessions will be held at St Edmund's School, some of these will be in other places. The sessions will be on Saturday afternoon.

Do I have to come to every session?

Yes, you **must** come to every session. There will be no other time to catch up on the session you missed. If you miss more than 2 sessions, you will not be able to complete the course this year and will have to do the next one.

When do we have Mass?

We will have a Special Mass either on Saturday evening (at 6.00pm) at St Edmund's Church or on Sunday morning (at 10.15am) at St Joseph's Church.

At this Mass the readings, bidding prayers and offertory are all done by you, the children. Of course, we hope that you will go to Mass on the other Sundays at your usual Parish Church.

When will I celebrate my First Holy Communion?

You will be split into 2 groups. The first group will celebrate their First Holy Communion on Sunday 10th May and the second group will celebrate theirs on Sunday 17th May.

You will find out which Sunday you will be celebrating your First Holy Communion at our first session in September.

Important Notice!

This will be an exciting time, but you **must** remember to behave yourself, as behaviour that is unacceptable, may mean that you could end up being removed from the Programme.

We welcome you as responsible person who will show kindness and respect to others at all times.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday 14th September at St Edmund's School for our first session.

May God bless you, your family and friends.

May God be a shining light to guide you to a most wonderful First Holy Communion Day!

From The Programme Team