



# St Herbert's R.C. Primary School

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15<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Dear Parents/Carers of children in Year 3.

Our Year 3 children upwards have the opportunity to make their First Holy Communion and to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the summer term. If your child has been baptised as a Roman Catholic, we would be delighted to welcome them onto the Sacramental Programme so that we can support them on their spiritual journey. A copy of the baptismal certificate will be required before the programme commences.

**The decision for your child to receive the sacraments is entirely yours.**

The first time your child receives Jesus in the Eucharist is an event of great joy for your family and for the whole Catholic community here at St Herbert's. Our Sacramental Programme will help you to work with the designated catechists/faith friends in preparing your child.

We believe that The Eucharist is the very centre of Christian life and preparing children to share fully in an event of such importance demands our very best efforts. The ministry you are invited to engage with in this process can be fulfilled by you and you alone. Bishop John makes clear, '**Parents have a right and duty to be intimately involved in preparing their children for First Communion.**' There will be some sessions for parents/carers and children to attend to support the child with their preparations. Fr Lawrence has also stated, he expects families to show a commitment to their child's faith journey by attending mass each week and having a record of attendance stamped,

**The key dates of the Sacramental Journey are:**

Sunday 19th November 2023 – 11am - Presentation Mass.

Saturday 16th March 2024 - 10am -Reconciliation Mass.

Saturday 22th June 2024 – 11am – Holy Communion Mass.

**Key dates for the family meetings to support your child's journey are as follows:**

September 26th: Session 1 - About the Faith Journey - 6pm in the Parish Centre

November 7th: Session 2 - Together In Faith/Presentation- 6pm in the Parish Centre

February 27th: Session 3 - Go in Peace/Reconciliation - 6pm in the Parish Centre

May 14th: Session 4 - Do This in Memory of Me/Holy Communion - 6pm in the Parish Centre

Attendance at these meetings is instrumental in supporting your child on their faith journey, please ensure all sessions are attended. To be successful we must work in partnership and the most important element is of course to bring your child to Mass each Sunday or Saturday evening.

If you would like your child to partake in the Sacramental Programme this year, please fill in the slip below.

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I would like my child \_\_\_\_\_ in class \_\_\_\_ to take part in the Sacramental Programme and understand that I will be required to work with school and the parish to fulfil this commitment.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_