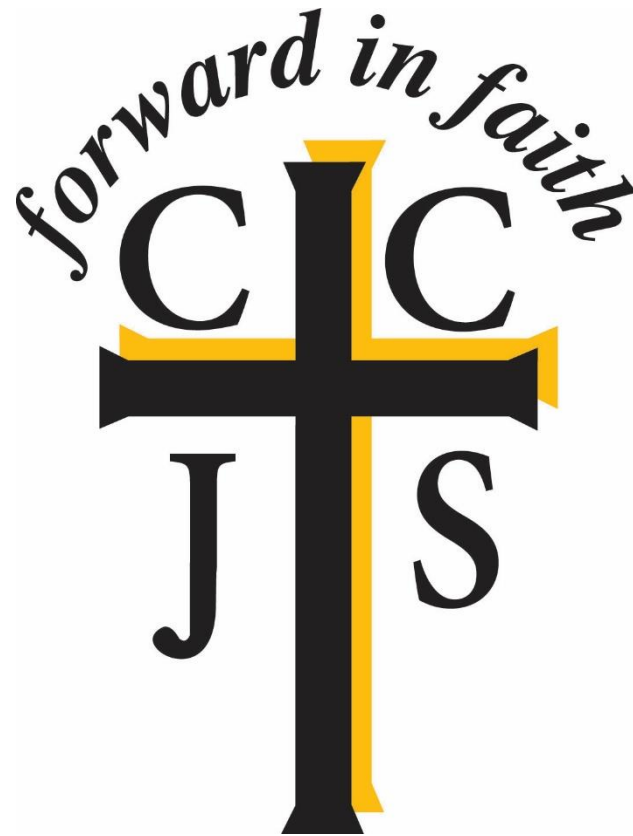


First Holy Communion Information for Sacramental Programme



Following in the Footsteps of Jesus

Welcome

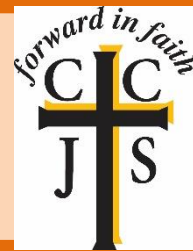


Dear Parents,

I am delighted to offer you some information regarding this year's sacramental programme and preparation for your child's First Holy Communion. In this power point, I will be talking about how school prepares your child, how our Parishes support us and how you as parents can work with us to make the preparation for First Holy Communion go as smoothly as possible.

If, at the end of this session, you do have any questions, please feel free to contact me (Mrs York) at school and I will be happy to help.

School Programme



The last two years have been like no other, and as such we have had to adapt our usual way of preparing the children and hosting meetings.

This year, we are both pleased and thankful to be preparing both year 3 and year 4 children to receive this special Sacrament.

You will have already received information about the dates for each Parish and have signed up for the appropriate date and Parish of your choice.

In due course, we will be asking you for your preferred time of Mass, bearing in mind that a balance of numbers between Masses would be preferred by the Parish.

Dates for Holy Communion

Year 4 Cohort:

St Ann's Parish:-Saturday 7th May 9.30 and 11.30

Christ Church:-Saturday 7th May 9.30 and 11.30

St Chad's:-Saturday 14th May 11.30

Year 3 Cohort:

St Ann's Parish:-Saturday 18th June 9.30 and 11.30

Christ Church:-Saturday 18th June 9.30 and 11.30

St Chad's:-Saturday 2nd July 11.30

Holy Communion Preparations in School

In school we will prepare your child to fully understand the Eucharist and what this Sacrament means.

We will prepare your child to understand why they are receiving this Sacrament, following on from them making the Sacrament of Reconciliation in year 2.

We will examine all aspects about going to Church, the order and structure of the Mass, the act of Eucharist and being invited to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.



Holy Communion Preparations at home and at school

The children will have already experienced learning about the Eucharist in their school Religion lessons. To supplement this even further, the children will also be using a book entitled "Called to his Supper." This book is excellent in terms of content and knowledge, delivered in an engaging and child friendly way. There may be times that they may bring the book home if they bring it home for additional work. Please do have a chat with your child about what they have learnt and what they may be looking forward to.

Practical Preparations

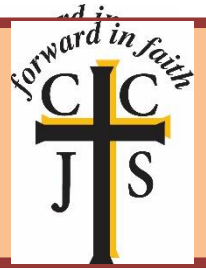
As well as learning the religious significance of the Sacrament of the Eucharist, we will equally prepare the children in the practical skills needed for this important occasion:

This will include reciting prayers, knowing responses, how to present in church, when to be still, when to stand, sit, kneel, how to genuflect, how to receive Holy Communion in both forms.

We will ensure the children are thoroughly prepared, so they are as confident as they can be for their special day.



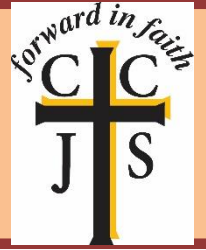
Church Preparations



We encourage you take your children to Mass as much as possible in the weeks leading up to their special day. The children will be more comfortable and confident when they receive Jesus for the first time.

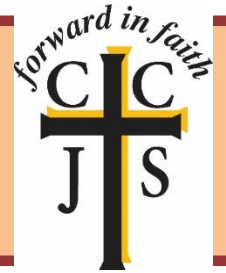
Fr Sean and Fr Tony are looking forward to welcoming you into their Churches. Children's liturgies are regularly held within the different Parishes too and it is a great way to feel a part of your Parish family.

What to Wear-Boys



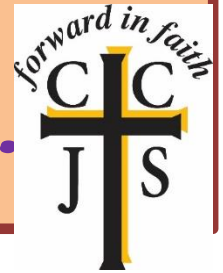
- Dark grey/black trousers
- white shirt
- red tie (which can be purchased from the school office)
- black shoes.

What to Wear-Girls



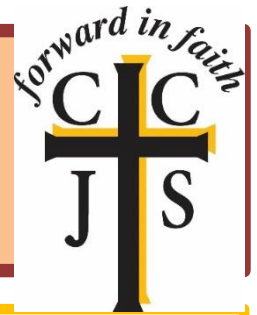
- White dress
- Veil (optional)
- White shoes
- Accessories such as gloves, bags or Rosary beads should not be used during the Holy Communion Mass, but can be used after the Mass for photographic purposes).

Some Polite reminders...



- There will be ample opportunity for photographs to be taken **after** the Holy Communion Mass.
- Please keep your mobile phones switched off.
- The children have worked extremely hard in preparing for this special event, we ask that when you (and visitors) are in Church that you lead by example and show reverence and respect, keeping noise and chatter to a minimum.

Whole School Celebration



As is the tradition of our school, we will be holding a Holy Communion Celebration during the Summer term for years 3 and 4. This will include photo opportunities including a year group Holy Communion Photograph. More details will follow about the day nearer to the time.