



Wythenshawe Catholic Team Ministry

Parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace

Parish Priest: Fr Nick Kern

Sacred Heart & St Peter's

presbytery

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Dear Parent or Carer,

First Holy Communion for Year Four Children

The Covid 19 Pandemic has made this a year like no other in our experience. I know that your children had been looking forward to making their First Holy Communion and I am sorry we had to disappoint them during the strict Lockdown.

We are now in a situation where the Bishops are still not allowing school Masses, but we can celebrate Mass in church if (and only if) we stick to all the rules currently surrounding the celebration of a parish Mass. This means that we must adhere strictly to the safety numbers calculated for each church building. Very sadly, it rules out singing. It also rules out the social we would often have as a school after the Mass.

The important thing here is that your children do receive this very special Sacrament. They are old enough and have done their preparation. It is an important milestone as they grow in their understanding of and participation in the Catholic faith. We think we can still have a Celebration that will be a special event for your children. They will be able to dress in their First Holy Communion clothes and to make their Communion with some of their friends and classmates. There will be some music.

Having listened to some of the concerns of parents, I am saying that TWO family members can be present at the First Holy Communion Mass. (We will double the number of Masses that we celebrate so that each celebration stays within

the safety limit we must observe). I regret that we cannot allow more than two for the Mass itself.

First Holy Communion for children in St Elizabeth's will take place on Saturday 7th November at 10am.

Some parents are asking if they can defer First Holy Communion until sometime in the future. This, of course, is your right as long as you understand the celebration would not therefore be with the school but within the context of a normal Sunday Mass. Do talk to me or Fr.Eoghan about any concerns you have.

If you wish to defer please email the school or inform the school office, you will then need to contact myself or Fr Eoghan to arrange a date for your child to receive the Sacrament during Sunday Mass.

Fr.Nick