

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

192, Nags Head Road, Ponders End, Enfield EN3 7AR

Tel: 020 8804 2149 Email: pondersend@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Priest – Fr John Shewring Catechetical Coordinator – Mayra Sanchez 020 8443 4069

Live streaming: <https://www.churchservices.tv/enfield>

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & RECONCILIATION 2021

Dear Parents

Firstly I would like to wish you a very Happy New Year with God's blessing on you and your family for the weeks that lie ahead. I also hope that you have been keeping well.

I am writing to you concerning your child's preparation for their First Holy Communion and Reconciliation. I had already met together with a good number of you before Christmas and we were due to have another meeting for other parents this week – this has now been cancelled. Many of you will know that we were due to begin our programme of preparation with your children next week – from Monday 11th January - but owing to the seriousness of the current situation with regard to the coronavirus and the further restrictions which will inevitably be imposed, I have decided that it would not be advisable for the children to meet together in their groups in the parish hall until such a time as the situation improves.

I was very reluctant to cancel the Sacramental preparation programmes for the children because we had to delay last year's group from receiving their Sacraments until October/November 2020 which then meant that we were unable to begin this current group's preparation until January 2021. If we don't begin in some way then we are going to be delayed again and I don't want this to happen. From next Monday 11th January we will begin a home learning programme so that the children can begin their preparation for the Sacraments in this way.

Each week we will send you the work that the children would normally follow in their groups with their catechist – this would be a scanned copy of the lesson from the book that they would normally use together with an explanation leaflet. There will also be a number of simple prayers which it would be important for the children to become familiar with and to learn by heart. Obviously we would need parents to sit down with the children to go through the materials with them. I really hope that you will be happy to cooperate in this way.

So please could I ask you to check your emails and WhatsApp messages regularly so that you are able to access the lessons each week. If you have any problems or questions please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mayra.

I do thank you sincerely in advance for your help in your children's preparation for these important sacraments in their Christian lives and could I also ask that you spend a little time in prayer with your children – your example in this will help them to build a special relationship with Jesus Christ.

God bless you,

Fr John.