

Catholic Church of Mary, Mother of God

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020

Dear Parents,

14th July 2020

I hope you continue to be well and that after lock down life is in many ways getting back to some kind of normality for you.

It is important for me to keep in touch with you because I think that we are moving towards that time when we must be considering seriously how we move forward with regard to your children being able to make their First Reconciliation and then receive their First Holy Communion. We are just waiting for permission from our Bishops to be able to celebrate these Sacraments again. I think that time will be very soon. So I just need you to be aware that we will be wanting to make arrangements with you sometime soon about how we need to get your children ready for these special moments in their Christian life.

When the time comes the First Holy Communion Masses might not be as we originally envisaged but we will do our very best to make sure that we remain flexible and that the celebrations will be safe and good experiences for the children and their families. The children's First Reconciliation will be our first concern and, of course, this have to be done before the Communion services take place. We will let you know as soon as we get nearer to the time. Please continue to be patient with us.

In the meantime it is important that you and your children begin to get back into some sort of routine. Our churches are now open for the celebration of Mass and in our own parish church, Mary, Mother of God, I have been saying Mass for the last two weeks. Please start to bring your children back to church as soon as you can. Children have returned to school and now it is important that Catholics, both young and older, begin to take up the practice of the faith once again.

We have made our church as safe a place as we possibly can. Taking into account the need for social distancing we can accommodate 60 people at each Mass. If families sit together it means we can possible admit a few more. Because we operate just under the 2 metres rule we ask people to wear face masks when they enter the church. Children under 11 yrs are not expected to wear face coverings. Sanitising as you enter and leave the church is not an option but mandatory. You and your children will be as safe as we can possible make you. So please don't worry unduly.

Times of Masses in our church for the weekend celebrations have changed a little during this time and they are at: **Saturday evening (Vigil Mass of Sunday) 5.00pm, Sunday: 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 3.30pm and 5.00pm.** These times will stay until the end of July and then they could possibly change. Could I suggest that you might like to consider the early evening Masses on Saturday and Sunday – they are not very busy at the moment and you would have no problem with getting a seat. Do get back into the habit of coming to church with your children as soon as you are able. I look forward to seeing you. Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Be assured of my prayers always. Yours fraternally,

Fr John