

Parents of children in the existing Sacramental Programme at Sacred Heart Church (now Y4)

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we try to organise a way in which your child can complete their instruction and make their First Holy Communion safely and in accordance with government and diocesan guidelines.

Assuming the restrictions in Rochdale remain the same, we have arranged a meeting for the children and dates for First Holy Communion which adhere to current guidelines. Should the restrictions in Rochdale change, we will advise you via the parish Facebook page and website.

Children's instruction:

Saturday 19th September 10:00-10:30 in the Parish Centre. The children will complete their instruction and prepare for First Holy Communion in October.

The children will be sat socially distanced, we will sanitise their hands and they MUST bring their own pen or pencil and colouring pencils.

First Holy Communion:

In order to comply with government and diocesan guidelines, we cannot have a group gathering for First Holy Communion. We will therefore hold 5 separate First Holy Communion masses for the children throughout the month of October. These will be on a Saturday at 12:00. To ensure we adhere to the guidelines on social distancing, 5 children will receive First Holy Communion at each mass. 8 people from a maximum of 3 households (inclusive of the child's house) will be able to attend for each child on the programme. The masses will be streamed via the webcam so other guests may choose to watch your child make their First Holy Communion on there.

There will be a sign up sheet available when you collect your child from the meeting on Saturday 19th September for you to select a date for your child to make their First Holy Communion so please check your diaries in advance. Please note we can only have a maximum of 5 children make their First Holy Communion at each mass.

We know this is not the way we or you had intended to celebrate First Holy Communion with the children. We have worked hard to create a system that is fair, complies to government and diocesan regulations and yet is still special for the children. Thank you for your support and understanding and we look forward to seeing the children on 19th September.

NB: Please keep checking the parish website and Facebook page as we will post any updates or changes on there should the government guidelines/restrictions change.