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Friday 11th June, 2021

Dear Families,

Thank you for the patience and understanding you have shown around your child's preparation for their First Holy Communion. Following meetings with Fr. O'Connor, Deacon Peter, one of our catechists, Paula and myself, I am now able to outline further plans for the celebration of the First Holy Communion.

Mass will inevitably be a little different this year however the celebration and the undertaking of the sacrament remains just as joyous and special as it always is.

The First Holy Communion Masses will take place on Saturday 26th June and Saturday 3rd July. You should know the date that you have chosen or that has been allocated to you; please get in touch if you would like a reminder. Both Masses start at 10a.m. Your family can arrive at church from 9.40a.m. Please be mindful, if there are a number of families in front of you waiting to enter the building, you will be required to adhere to social distancing and families should stand in household bubbles. Once inside church, you will be asked to sanitise your hands and then each family will be ushered to their seat.

You are invited to bring all of your immediate family to Mass– those people living in your household. Each family is also invited to bring a further four people from a maximum of two household bubbles. Each immediate family will sit in a pew at the front of church and then any additional bubbles will have a row further back down the aisle. Households must remain apart therefore, if you choose to bring two additional bubbles, they will sit either side of one bench, leaving a space in the middle. At the bottom of this letter, there is a space for you to provide the names and contact details of the family/friends that you choose to invite to the service. Contact details are necessary for Track & Trace and will be stored securely and will be destroyed after twenty one days of the Mass, in line with GDPR guidance. Please return the details to school by Friday 18th June so a seating plan can be organised in advance.

We also ask that face masks are worn by all adults. If you are exempt from wearing a face covering, please ensure this has been clearly communicated. Unfortunately, if you have any symptoms associated with coronavirus, you will be unable to attend the service.

The children will have the chance to participate in Mass in a number of ways; one notable difference however will be the lack of singing although there will be music provided to facilitate a prayerful and reflective environment.

The First Communicants and those who usually receive communion will receive the host; at the moment, communion of one kind is given therefore, during both Masses, there will be no precious blood offered. We do hope and pray for a time in the near future when the children will be able to receive communion under both kinds.

We ask that boys wear a red tie, a white shirt (tucked in), formal trousers and shoes. Girls are to wear dresses – please note, veils are welcome but not expected!

After Mass, everyone will remain in their seats and the children will be invited to come to the altar to take a formal photograph; one adult from each family will also be invited so they can take photographs of their child on their camera/phone. There will then be a formal group photograph also. After the photographs have been

taken, families will be ushered out of church, the First Communicants receiving a small gift bag to commemorate their First Holy Communion.

Within school, I will prepare the pupils, ensuring that the programme of preparation is completed, building upon the great work of the catechists and teachers which took place before the pandemic. Closer to the date, the pupils will also have the chance to visit church so they are familiar with the running order of the Mass and have the chance to ask any questions.

We are looking forward to two very special celebrations in which the children will take a further step in developing and strengthening their relationship with God. We want this to be a very special time for you family. If you have any questions or would like any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us – there are no silly questions!

God bless,



Fr. O' Connor



Rev. P. Smith



Mrs. F. Stephenson

Immediate Family (please provide full name and contact number):

First Communicant:

Person One:

Person Two:

Person Three:

Person Four:

Person Five:

Additional guests from a maximum of two further households (please provide full name and contact number):

Bubble One

Person One:

Person Two:

Person Three:

Person Four:

Person Five:

Bubble Two

Person One:

Person Two: