

19<sup>th</sup> June 2018

From: Fr Tom

To: Parents preparing their children for their 1st Reconciliation and 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion in 2018/2019

Dear Parents

Welcome to St. Joseph's 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation & 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Preparation. On behalf of the catechists I am delighted to welcome you and your child as we look forward to accompanying your family on this significant stage of your child's faith journey.

The Sacraments of Reconciliation & 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion are important sacraments for your child, for all your family and indeed for our Church and the whole community to which we belong. We wish you every blessing as we embark on this journey together.

If there is any further information you need now or as the course develops please contact your catechists or speak to one of them at the end of the weekly sessions. Alternatively, you can of course speak to me, Fr Saju, Garry Cullen or Lolly Bell at any time.

We want your child to enjoy this preparation time and ask you to look on it as an opportunity for your family to grow in faith and in your knowledge and love of God, together.

I do ask you and your child for all your support and co-operation to help make this preparation time a blessing for us all.

With all God's Blessing

*Fr Tom*

### **Parish Policy**

The parish recognizes that you are the primary teachers of your children in their faith and it is our sincere desire to work alongside you and your child to prepare for 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation and 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion which are important steps in the life of your child.

### **Parents Role**

As parents you have the most important role in the preparation process, which is primarily:

- ♥ to accompany your child to Mass
- ♥ to pray for and with your child
- ♥ to witness to your faith by your family life style and conversation
- ♥ to prepare for and attend the diarised preparation sessions with them

Your support and encouragement during the process is vital to the Catechists and to your child's faith development. Sports events, parties and other such competing attractions must come second to First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion preparation.

### **First Reconciliation**

Reconciliation is a special sacrament of healing and forgiveness. It will help your children to grow in awareness of the choices they make and enable them to feel closer to God.

### **First Holy Communion**

First Holy Communion is a special time when your children are welcomed into the body of the Church and begin to take a more active part in the parish community.

### **Resources**

All the resources you and your child need will be provided.\* It is essential that each family bring their **Bible, folder, pencils and prayer book** to every session and that you encourage your child to use their **Little Missal** during Mass.

*\*At the Parents' Retreat day. The cost is £30 plus £16 for the Bible*

## Attendance

Each child must be accompanied by a parent or grandparent, not a friend of the family. It is important that families attend all sessions. You and your child are asked to plan ahead to ensure that this happens. **If your child is unwell or there is a valid reason why you cannot attend please let your catechist know in advance of the session.** We will provide resources for you and your child, and we ask parents to prepare at home in advance of each session.

All **follow-up home activities** should be completed as this is a vital part of the process – giving you and your child an opportunity for quiet time together with each other and with God.

For child protection purposes a register will be taken at each session and if your child misses two sessions in a term you will be asked to contact Fr Tom to discuss this.

**Sessions will begin on time.** We ask everyone to be punctual for all sessions in consideration of others in your group. If you arrive late, you not only disrupt the class but you may miss a vital part of the preparation.

Please support your catechists as much as possible; they give their time freely to support you and your children and this preparation course cannot be provided without their time and effort.

Kindly remember that on Sundays we are guests at Holy Trinity Convent and we ask you to treat the convent and the grounds with respect.

For any further guidance or help please contact your catechist.

SS Joseph & Swithun Parish, Bromley

Sacramental Preparation

Growing up Catholic

First Reconciliation

&

First Holy Communion

2018/2019



Parent Information Evening