

# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, NEW MALDEN

## APPLICATION FOR THE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2021

Please use **BLOCK LETTERS** and write clearly

NAME OF CHILD	<b>M / F</b>		
DATE OF BIRTH			
DATE OF BAPTISM	If your child has not been Baptised, you will need to arrange for Baptism to take place before the First Holy Communion Mass. Please speak to the Parish Priest.		
CHURCH AND TOWN WHERE BAPTISED			
SCHOOL			
FATHER'S NAME		RELIGION	
MOTHER'S NAME		RELIGION	
DETAILS OF MARRIAGE	DATE: TOWN: NAME OF CHURCH:		
HOME ADDRESS			
POST CODE		EMAIL *	
* Please ensure you fill in your email address clearly and legibly as it will be used for all correspondence.			

TELEPHONE:	HOME		MOBILE	
DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE ANY ALLERGIES?	YES/NO	Details:		
	Please delete one or other			
ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILD	PLEASE INCLUDE ANY SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL OR OTHER NEEDS			
<p style="text-align: center;">As Parents (or Guardians) we understand the importance of Holy Mass and the Sacrament of Confession.          We undertake to support our child throughout the First Holy Communion programme and beyond.          Both (or at least one) of us will attend each of the monthly Parents' Evenings, and pray regularly with our child, together as a Family.          We will accompany our child to Mass every Sunday, and bring him / her to all the sessions of the FHC programme.          We understand that, if our child does not attend all the sessions, or is otherwise inadequately prepared,          continued participation in the course may be deferred until the following year.</p>				
SIGNED			DATE	Parent / Guardian
SIGNED			DATE	Parent / Guardian

*The information recorded on this form is confidential and will be retained for parish purposes only, under GDPR.*

**Thank you for completing this form. Please email the signed form and send to Agnes Vella, Parish Secretary by Monday 01 March 2021. Email address: [agnesvella@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:agnesvella@rcaos.org.uk).**

# **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2021**

## **IMPORTANT NOTES - PLEASE READ AND KEEP TO HAND**

There are a limited number of places available on the Parish programme, so please note that late return of this form may prejudice your child's acceptance onto this year's programme.

The programme this year will run from March 2021 until the end of school summer term, 23rd July 2021. The First Holy Communion Mass dates will be confirmed in due course.

The various parts of the Mass form the programme topics, which are each introduced at a term-time monthly Parents' Evening (typically Tuesdays), catechising, informing and enabling all parents to prepare in advance so as to best support their children at home.

The children will meet approximately monthly on Saturday mornings in small groups, coordinated by a qualified and experienced Catechist who, with a Priest, guides Parents and our Assistant Catechists. **This year all teaching sessions & Parents' Evenings in preparation for receiving First Holy Communion, are envisaged to take place virtually (online) via Zoom.**

The 11.30am Sunday Mass will include VIRTUAL participation of the First Communion children. All the children and their families are, of course, expected (like any Catholic, and as a matter of good practice) to be at Mass faithfully every Sunday, (this year, it's expected most of you will joining online, of course).

The Church requires children to make their First Confession before their First Holy Communion. Teaching and experience of Confession (the Sacrament of Reconciliation) thus forms an initial part of the First Holy Communion programme, and a related Parents' Evening enables them to have a good understanding, and to give a good example in this, as in all aspects of Catholic life and living.

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**An information letter and a comprehensive timetable of the Programme (including Parents' Evenings, special Sundays, and the various other occasions) will be provided before the start of the programme.**

All further information about the programme will be given at the first of the Tuesday Parents' Evenings in March. Please feel free to talk to the Parish Priest, or to contact the Parish Office meanwhile.

The Church teaches (in the Rite of Baptism and elsewhere) that the responsibility of *training* a child *in the practice of the Faith* lies firstly with Parents, while the Parish (and Catholic Primary School) assist you in this. A First Holy Communion programme requires commitment from Parents and Children for it to be of lasting value. It is therefore our expectation that Parents will fully support their children in this important step in their journey in Faith, especially by their commitment to Sunday Mass (whether here or away on holiday), devout receiving of Holy Communion, daily prayer, and regular Confession etc.

Typically children will be in school Year 3 by this September, but older children are of course welcome. It is not normally appropriate for children younger than this to join the programme.

The Assistant Catechists are ordinary members of the Parish, some with experience as parents, some as teachers, and from other areas. Please remember that they are volunteers, giving of their time to help *you* in the preparation of your child. The programme is coordinated on behalf of the Parish by a qualified Catechist. All Parents are expected to volunteer once per term to sit-in on the Saturday morning sessions (as part of the Catholic Church's Child Protection Policy) and, as appropriate, to read at the FHC Sunday Masses.

In normal times the course runs in St Joseph's Pastoral Centre. But owing to the global Covid-19 Pandemic, the 2021 course will be run virtually (online) via Zoom meetings. Details of the time of the first Parents' Evening and 'Enrolment' to the programme, will be detailed in the confirmatory letter, and published in the Parish Sunday Bulletin. We will of course inform you should it be safe to revert to physical meetings at the Pastoral Centre at St Joseph's, in line with UK Government guidance.

If you would like to talk about any aspect of the course please do speak to the Parish Priest, or to our First Holy Communion Catechetical Coordinators.