



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Monday 14th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

First Holy Communion for our current P5 pupils will be celebrated in St. Patrick's Church, Ballinderry on Sunday **20th September 2020 at 12:00noon**. A celebration of First Confession will precede First Holy Communion on the day of the ceremony, promptly at **11.45am**. We would ask that all children are seated no later than **11:40am** in order to facilitate a reverent celebration of Penance.

First Communicants may be accompanied into the church only by their parents & siblings - brothers & sisters. Unfortunately, nobody else is allowed to attend. Each family will have a pew at which to sit - creating a 'family bubble'. We are restricted to a maximum number of 48 being in the church at any time so we ask people to be considerate of this number. Please note there will be no reserved seating and it will be first come, first served when allocating a pew. Please make sure your child has been to the toilet just before you leave your home. Following the Irish Catholic Bishops recommendation to use face coverings at Masses and other celebrations in churches we ask all parents/carers to adopt the practice.

All First Communion parish celebrations will be broadcast live on St. Patrick's Ballinderry Parish Webcam - no recording shall take place.

There will be no photographer available on the day to take individual or family photos, so we ask families to please make alternative arrangements. A joint group photo of all First Communicants will be taken on the altar at the end of the celebration. There will be an opportunity for family photos at the entrance doors of the chapel at the end of the ceremony.

There will be no choir in attendance for the ceremony and the music will be provided on a CD format. Entrance hymn will be *'My Shepherd is the Lord'* and the closing hymn *'Do this in Memory of Jesus'*

Please find below a link to a First Communion video resource produced by the Diocesan Pastoral Team. The video listed is part one of a series of videos exploring the Mass. The first video examines the gathering, the introductory rite and the penitential rite. We hope that these resources will assist you and the children for the reception of the sacrament. We would kindly ask all the children to practice the prayers *'Act of Sorrow'* and *'Prayer after Communion'* as they will say both prayers together as a class during the ceremony.

<https://www.armagharchdiocese.org/holy-communion/>

We aim to make this a very special occasion for our First Communion children and hope that they all enjoy their big day. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the wonderful P5 children and we wish them all the luck and happiness for their First Holy Communion Day.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Ciaran McElroy
Principal