

Dear parent or carer of our school children and catechetical encounters.

This year is the first year since the Scottish Bishops reorganised the celebrating of sacraments. In the past all three sacraments (First Confession, Confirmation and First Holy Communion) were all squeezed into 9 months of preparation. This was tough for those preparing the children and impossible for the children to fully take in so much information. Now they have a year to prepare for each sacrament. So, this year we have three different groups. Each group preparing for a different Sacrament:

P3..... First Confession

P4..... First Holy Communion

P7..... Confirmation

We in the Church are concerned that Sacraments can be done just out of tradition; or “it has always been done this way in our family” or even “Let’s do it because Granny insists”. Sacraments are wonderful, important moments of encountering Jesus not just for one day but to accompany us throughout our lives. They are fundamental for a people who want to be a dynamic Church following in the footsteps of Jesus and living his values.

Baptism is the Sacrament by which children begin their journey in the Church but it does not complete it. Confirmation and first Holy Communion are the sacraments by which we all become full members of the family of the church.

Children attending our Catholic School obviously receive far more preparation and support from our teachers. Unfortunately, we only offer one catechetical encounter a week in the parish for children outside the Catholic school structure but we are grateful for the dedication and commitment of all involved.

***However, the best formation is by example and practise.
The primary preparation of our children for all the sacraments
is by their attendance at Sunday mass.***

We are inviting parents and carers (*at least one*) of children who **would like to be candidates** for one of these sacraments for the first of a series of meetings on **WEDNESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER AT 7pm AT ST. BERNADETTE’S CHURCH.** We hope that these meetings will help you to give more support and guidance to children under your care. At the first meeting we have invited Mary O’Duffin Religious Education Advisor of the Diocese of Dunkeld. We hope also to explain what parents and carers can expect from our Parish and School teams and also what we expect from you and your children. Dates of the enrolment ceremonies and of the celebration of the sacraments will also be shared.

It is with great joy and expectation we look forward to a new group of young people beginning new steps in their faith journey. The school and the parish will make an enormous effort that your children’s preparation will be a joyful adventure as they await meeting Jesus in new ways.

We rely on parents and carers to be the first and best of teachers.

Looking forward to meeting you on Wednesday 25th.

Fr. Mike