



St. Colman's Primary School
and
All Saints' Nursery Unit
(Annaclone)

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Progress Through Partnership, Leading To Excellence



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15th October 2020

Up-date regarding First Holy Communion for Primary 5

Dear Parents,

On Wednesday the Executive agreed a range of significant time-bound interventions to curb the spread of Covid-19 in Northern Ireland. The rulings and restrictions will have implications for all of us. Over the last 48 hours, negotiations and discussions between the school, parents, the Parish, the Diocese and local political representatives have been on-going. I am pleased to confirm that the First Holy Communion ceremony will go ahead and proceed as planned on **Saturday 17th of October at 1030.**

Social distancing will take place in accordance with the current guidelines. Places of worship will remain open with a mandatory requirement to wear face coverings for adults. We ask that each child is accompanied by **NO MORE than two other persons**. Each family will be allocated one row in the church. We would ask that everyone is seated in the chapel no later than **10.20.**

The children's class photo is scheduled for 10.25 on the altar.

- Please remain in your car on the morning until directed to enter the chapel.
- The side door and the main door will both be in use and will be left open throughout the Mass.
- Your point of entry will be determined by your seating position which will be given to your child at practice on Friday 15th October. Remember to collect your child from the chapel tomorrow at 12.00 after the practice is complete.
- Children will sit at the edge of the pew. On the day of the Sacrament you will then be directed to your seats which will be clearly identified with your child's name and Communion certificate placed at the end of your row. There will also be three Mass booklets for you to take away with you.

Canon Kearney will give clear guidance during the Mass as to what the children should do. There is no need for anyone to be anxious about what to do or when to do it. Enjoy your big day.

When the service is over, families are asked to leave the church row by row, using the same door of entry. Unfortunately, personal family photographs with Canon Kearney **inside the church** are not permitted.

The service will be streamed live from the chapel on the school YouTube channel. A link will be sent out ahead of the mass.

The school photographer Michael D'Cruize will be available in the Parish Rooms both before and after the service for family bookings. He asks that you contact him on 07881885112 or email (see pricing flyer) to reserve a time slot.

Thank you once again to all of the families for your support and good wishes during the last few weeks. We were all united in wanting what was best for this special group of children. Thank you also to all those involved in the huge community push to get the chapel ready for Saturday. Giving up your time like you have is greatly appreciated by us all.

If you need to contact me for any reason – please do not hesitate to call or email the school.

Best wishes and may St. Colman keep us all safe and pray for us.

Mr O'Neill

