

## RC Parish of Our Lady of Kirkstall, Leeds

(Churches: Holy Name of Jesus; Assumption of Our Lady; & St Mary's, Horsforth)

Parish Office: 52 Otley Old Road, Leeds LS16 6HW

Tel. (0113) 267-8257. email – [office.ourladyofkirkstall@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:office.ourladyofkirkstall@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Doody, email - [pp.ourladyofkirkstall@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:pp.ourladyofkirkstall@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: Fr Marc Pitson, email – [ap.ourladyofkirkstall@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:ap.ourladyofkirkstall@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)



8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you are all well. As promised, in this letter you will find all the information you need about your child's preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation this school year (Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation). Thank you for your patience and the gracious way you have dealt with the adjustments we have had to make this year since the very busy session back in September!

### **Family Catechesis**

We will be continuing with the model of catechesis introduced a few years ago known as 'family catechesis'. The idea is that the parent/guardian, attend the catechesis sessions with your child and guide them through the material in the resources with the help of the Catechists. Sometimes there will be work to do at home and activities to help deepen the learning points in the sessions. Please remember that only a person aged 18 or over can accompany your child to the catechesis sessions.

### **Mass Attendance**

The Catholic Church requires Catholics to attend Mass every Sunday and Holyday unless serious reasons prevent them from doing so. As part of your child's preparation for any sacrament it is particularly important that you help them to meet this obligation and bring them to Sunday Mass. It helps the children to see that you as the parent/s are backing up the teaching that they are receiving during the preparation sessions. We realise that there are many different serious reasons (illness, work, family situations, SEN considerations) that may make weekly attendance difficult or impossible and we trust that you will do the best you can with your particular circumstances. If you are a Catholic who wants to start coming back to Sunday Mass that is wonderful! In these circumstances, you are really welcome to attend Mass but please go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) first before receiving Holy Communion (see the Church bulletin for times or speak to a priest after Mass). If you are a non-Catholic parent you are very welcome to attend Mass with your child at any of our Churches and join us in prayer. When it comes to Holy Communion (you will see people begin to queue up in the central aisle), the appropriate thing for non-Catholics to do is to come forward for a blessing (indicated by crossing your arms across your chest) or to simply stay sitting in your place if you wish.

### **First Reconciliation 2024**

To receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation your child must have been baptised as a Catholic and be in year 3 or above. There are 3 different times and places for these sessions. The Wednesday sessions take place at Holy Name Church Hall at 6pm or at St Mary's School at 6.30pm. The Sunday sessions take place at the Assumption Church Hall at 3pm. All sessions last for approximately an hour and attendance is required at all sessions unless you have made other *prior* arrangements with the priests or catechists. In case of illness please contact the priest/catechists ASAP before the session.

Session One	Either Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> January or Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> January
Session Two	Either Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> January or Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> January
Session Three	Either Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> January or Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> January
Session Four	Either Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> January or Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> February

There won't be a single Reconciliation Service this year. Children will be invited to come to the normal parish times for confession or to the extra times which we will let the families know about towards the end of the preparation sessions. These extra sessions will be timed to start at the end of the school day.

### **First Holy Communion/Eucharist 2024**

To receive their First Holy Communion your child must have been baptised, made their First Reconciliation and be in year 4 or above. There are 3 different times and places for these sessions. The Wednesday sessions take place at Holy Name Church Hall at 6pm or at St Mary's School at 6.30pm. The Sunday sessions take place at the Assumption Church Hall at 3pm. All sessions last for approximately an hour and attendance is required at all sessions unless you have made other arrangements with the priest or catechists.

Session One	Either Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> March or Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> March
Session Two	Either Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> March or Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> March
Session Three	Either Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> April or Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> April
Session Four	Either Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> April or Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> April
Session Five	Either Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> May or Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> May
Practice	Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> June (at both Holy Name & St Mary's)
First Holy Communion Celebrations	Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> June 10.30am (both Holy Name & St Mary's)
Collection of Certificates	Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> June at Sunday Masses

### **Confirmation 2023-2024**

To receive the Sacrament of Confirmation your child must have been baptised, made their First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and be in year 6 or above. The sessions take place at Holy Name Hall at 3pm. [NB the first session took place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023]

Session Two	Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2023
Session Three	Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2024
Session Four	Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Session Five	Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> March
Session Six	Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> April
Celebration of Confirmation	Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> May at 7pm (St Mary's Horsforth)

### **Children with SEN**

If your child has special education needs (SEN) we appreciate that the attendance at the sessions might not be straightforward and you might need to do things a little differently. You may be unsure about how your child will react to the environment with the other families present or have other concerns. Please let us know about these concerns at the sessions themselves or contact us prior to them and we will do our best to come up with a solution that works for everyone.

### **Parents with different children preparing for Confirmation & 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation/Holy Communion**

It's possible that some parents who have children preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation and other children preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation or 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion will have to choose which of the catechesis sessions they go to. If there is a clash between sessions and there is no way that somebody can accompany your child to each session then please prioritise the sessions preparing for reconciliation or 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion and let the Confirmation Catechists know you're unable to attend that week.

If you have any questions or queries please feel free to get in touch.

With my prayers for you and your families,

Fr Michael Doody

Parish Priest

Our Lady of Kirkstall