

St Patrick’s P.S.

and Nursery

Castlederg

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First Holy Communion Updated.

5th May 2021

Dear Parent/s,

Following an announcement from the Diocesan Office Fr. Paul Fraser has announced that First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 3rd July 2021.

The date has been amended so that First Holy Communion takes place at the end of the school year for P4 and to prevent any spread of Covid – 19 among our pupils in school. Due to the public health guidance and the social distancing requirements – there will be still be two services at 1pm and at 3pm on the day.

The P4’s making their First Holy Communion have been divided into two groups and the Communion Mass you and your child are to attend remains the same as before. All families will be allowed to have 6 people in attendance and both ceremonies will be streamed online if you have larger family groups.

To help with your child’s preparation it is very important that you bring your child to Mass now as many pupils have been unable to attend during the pandemic. Fr. Paul Fraser is also having a special Mass as detailed in the letter from him also included.

Further details are available from the Parish Newsletter on the Parish website.

Yours sincerely

Brian Mc Gurk Principal

**The Sacrament of First Holy Communion– Summer 2021**

The public health situation in the North remains unpredictable.

Bishop McKeown circulated an email yesterday (26th April), advising that First Holy Communion ceremonies could proceed in the Summer Term, providing the Principal and Teachers were confident that the children would be suitably prepared. Following a discussion with Mr McGurk, Mrs Norton and Mrs Smith, the First Communion ceremonies will take place on **Saturday 3rd July** at 1pm and 3pm. Again, the children will be divided into two groups so that each child will be able to invite six guests from the same social ‘bubble’.

In preparation for this celebration **the children and their parents** are invited to attend Mass in St Patrick’s Church as follows:

P4 – Friday 14th May at 7.30pm

At these Masses you will be given important information about the way in which we intend to celebrate safely these special days in the lives of your children and of our parish. As part of their preparation for First Holy Communion it is expected that each family will make a special effort to attend Mass on the weekends, remembering that you need to book by email: [castledergparish@derrydiocese.org](mailto:castledergparish@derrydiocese.org)

In your email you should indicate how many people will be in your group and also state clearly which Mass you would like to attend. Weekend Masses in Castlederg for the coming months are as follows:

**6pm – every Saturday**

**11am – Sunday 9th and 23rd May; 13th and 27th June**

Thank you for your cooperation during these unpredictable times! I assure you that I will do everything possible to proceed with the arrangements described above. In spite of this, we must all be mindful of the fact that the situation could change at short notice.

Wishing you and your families every blessing.

Fr Paul Fraser