ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Christ is the centre of our school community where we live, love and learn together.

Tuesday 23rd April 2024

Dear Family,

First Holy Communion

We are excitedly awaiting our Year 3 childrens' celebration of the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in May at 11am on Sunday 5th May (group A) and Sunday 12th May (group B).

St Thomas More staff will be providing a final parent preparation session via 'Sycamore' on Thursday 25th April at 5:15pm in the school hall. It should last for approximately 30 minutes. This is an important session focussing on 'The Holy Eucharist' and all parents of children making their First Holy Communion are strongly encouraged to attend.

Arangements for the Day

Clothing

- Girls – white Holy Communion dresses (accessories such as bags and gloves must remain with parents please. Should you wish to borrow a dress from school please get in touch)
- Boys – white school shirt, trousers, shoes and a special First Holy Communion Tie (purchased through ParentPay)

Parking

Other parishioners will be attending this Mass so parking spaces will be limited on the church car park. The school car park and playground will be open for parking.

Seating

Children should arrive at school no later than 10:30am. The children will be sitting in the front benches inside the church alongside staff of St Thomas More school. This will help them to process up to Father Christopher at Holy Communion. Families will be allocated a resevered pew to sit at.

Our children will be welcomed to Holy Communion first, where they will kneel and receive the Eucharist on their tongue (no photographs). This will be practised by the children beforehand.

Celebrating Mass

We all aim to maintain the special atmosphere of the day and keep our parish church a sacred space. Therefore, there are a few reminders we would like to make all families aware of:

- Ensure all electronic devices are switched onto silent and not used during the Mass.
- No photographs can be taken whilst inside the church and during the Mass. A member of staff will guide you to take a special photograph after Mass. A group photograph will also be taken by a staff member and will be distributed to families in due course. This is in line with safeguarding and GDPR regulations.
- There is no smoking/vaping allowed inside the church, the porch and outside the main entance.
- No food or drink should be consumed inside the church building.
- Please keep aisles clear around the church – pushchairs can be positioned at the back.
- To help the children, join in as much as possible with all the spoken responses and hymns sung on the day.

Thank for your ongoing support and we look forward to sharing in this special part of your child's faith journey.

M Jordan

Mr M Jordan
RE Lead