

Preparation for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion in 2019

Pastoral area of Greystones and Kilquade Parishes

15th May 2018

Dear parent(s),

As your child is currently in first class, I am writing to inform you of changes that we need to make in how we schedule and locate the ceremonies for First Communion in 2019. In addition I want to bring to your attention the various elements in relation to preparation to receive First Communion in 2019 within the pastoral area of the parishes of Greystones and Kilquade.

Changes to the Ceremonies

Over the past years, we have implemented a number of changes in how we schedule and resource the different ceremonies relating to the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. We need to take into account the increasing numbers of families presenting children for the Sacraments while restrained by the number of priests available in the parishes and limited by the capacity of our church buildings.

Consequently, we are implementing additional changes for 2019. These changes are:

1. To have only one ceremony of First Communion per school rather than per class as in some of the schools at present.
2. To locate all of the Sacramental ceremonies, for all of the schools in the pastoral area, in the Church of St. Anthony in Kilcoole.

We understand that many of you will have questions and concerns in relation to these changes. Consequently, we are hosting meetings in the parishes this month to explain to parents the rationale behind the changes, to hear your concerns and to answer your questions in as far as possible. These meetings are as follows:

Tuesday 29th May 2018 in Kilcoole Primary School from 7:30 to 8:30pm

Wednesday 30th May 2018 in St. Brigid's National School from 7:30 to 8:30pm

Families are welcome to attend either of these meetings, irrespective of which school their children attend.

Registration

All families who wish their child to receive the sacrament of First Communion in 2019 need to register with the parish by the end of September 2018.

The registration form and an explanation of the parish approach to preparing for the sacraments will be on the parish website from the beginning of August 2018 (www.greystonesparish.ie or www.kilquadeparish.ie). We will have notices in our parish newsletters and churches once the registration is available.

In order to complete the registration form you will need to know the date and location of your child's Baptism. For any child not baptised within the parishes of Greystones or Kilquade you will need to provide a copy of their baptism certificate from the parish where they were Baptised.

Parish Offices:

Greystones – 012874025 office@greystonesparish.com Hours: Mon – Fri 09:30 – 12:30

Kilquade – 012819658 kilquadeparish@eircom.net Hours: Mon - Thu 10am to 1pm

Preparation for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion in 2019

Preparation Programme

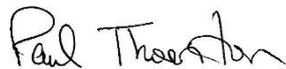
The Religious Education school curriculum will prepare your child once they are in second class in school. It is not compulsory to receive these Sacraments at that stage and, indeed, some parents do wait until the child is older before bringing them forward for these sacraments. We encourage you to take time now to think about whether you wish to go ahead or not.

While an amount of the preparation work with your child is carried out through the school the home remains the primary place of nurture for Faith development. We, the pastoral team of the parish, recognise the role we have in supporting you, especially at these times of preparation for the Sacraments. We put in place a preparation programme for parents as a means of achieving this. This programme will begin in October 2018. All who have registered their children will be invited to take part in the preparation programme.

The time of preparation for sacraments is an opportunity for us all to be renewed and nourished in our own faith journey. It is a time for us to consider how we are part of the community that gathers at the weekend to celebrate our relationship with God. It is a time to develop further our own participation within that worshipping community, in the year of preparation and beyond that.

I, and the preparation team, look forward to meeting with you over the months ahead. If I can be of any assistance to you or you need to clarify any item in this letter, please feel free to contact me on my mobile 0851259753, or by email at paul.thornton@dublindiocese.ie.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Thornton, Parish Pastoral Worker

On behalf of the Sacramental Preparation and Parish Pastoral teams of the Pastoral Area of Greystones and Kilquade.

Parish Offices:

Greystones – 012874025 office@greystonesparish.com Hours: Mon – Fri 09:30 – 12:30
Kilquade – 012819658 kilquadeparish@eircom.net Hours: Mon - Thu 10am to 1pm