



Diocese of Arundel & Brighton

Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bexhill

St Mary Magdalene & St Martha's

stmm@btconnect.com / 01424 210 263



Application for 2021 First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion of Baptised Children, for those aged 7-9 (school years 3 & 4)

(please complete one form per child)

Child's Full Name:

Date of Birth: / / 20 ____

Date of Christian Baptism: / / 20 ____

Current School Year:

Place of Christian Baptism: _____ Catholic Church: Yes / No*

You must supply a copy of the baptismal certificate with your application

*(if baptised in a Church of England or other Christian denomination please complete the form and contact the Parish Office to make an appointment to see the Parish Priest)

Usual Mass community: _____ and Time: _____

Parents' or Carers' Details

Mother's Name: _____ Catholic Yes / No

& Maiden name: _____

Father's Name: _____ Catholic Yes / No

Address: Post Code: Email: Telephone:

Details of the 2021 Course to follow

Please sign to read that you have read the accompanying information sheet. At baptism, you promised to bring your child up in the Catholic faith, so by signing this form you continue to live up to this serious commitment. Although the obligation to hear Mass on Sunday is suspended due to the pandemic, you should keep the Lord's Day Holy and set time aside for God on Sundays especially.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to the parish office at St Mary Magdalene, Sea Road, Bexhill, TN40 1RH. You may be asked to make an appointment to see one of the parish clergy before being accepted onto the sacramental programme. The Diocese of Arundel & Brighton is a Registered Charity, No. 252878



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First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion (2021)

Notes for Guidance: Thank you for taking time to find out about the sacraments for your child(ren).

Children from School Year 3 and 4, who have been baptised*, are invited to join the Parish First Holy Communion programme. **Although the Sunday obligation has been suspended due to the pandemic**, public Masses are still celebrated in the parish and you are advised to bring your children to Mass as often as possible, paying due regard to the COVID precautions in place, so that your children remain connected to the Mass, an essential preparation for receiving Holy Communion. **As parents remain the primary catechists**, much of the preparation for Holy Communion for 2021 will fall on parental shoulders. With the support of the Parish, parents deliver the formation necessary to help their child(ren) to make their First Reconciliation (Confession) and Receive Our Lord, *body, blood, soul and divinity* for the first time in Holy Communion.

****Reception into full communion with the Catholic Church.** If your child(ren) have been baptised into the Church of England or another Christian Denomination (for any reason), we need to know at the time of application, and we need to see a copy of their baptismal certificate. Before you can be accepted onto the course you will need to make an appointment to see the Parish Priest so that we can discuss with you whether or not it is now appropriate to receive your child(ren) into full communion of the Catholic Church by a formal act of Reception.*

Aged 9+ in September? Many children make and receive their First Holy Communion around the age of 8 in School Year 3, but this is not always the case. Children who are a bit older (aged 9+ at the start of the programme) may now find the content of the First Holy Communion course insufficient for their needs. Therefore, the "We Journey Together Course" might be more appropriate as the catechists on this course are well used to tailoring the content to children of various ages. Contact the Parish Office for more details.

Aged 13+ in September? It may be more appropriate that you wait until School Year 10 and join the Confirmation Programme and make and receive your First Holy Communion at the same time. For a good reason, and you can demonstrate your readiness, you might, with the permission of the bishop, be allowed to join the Confirmation course in School Year 9.

Dates for First Holy Communion: these will not be released until we have completed the 2020 celebrations postponed from last year, and we know what the COVID restrictions will be going forward.

NB: For the conferral of these sacraments, at least one parent should be a practicing Catholic, as parental support is vital if the faith is to be nurtured and parents remain the first teacher of their children in the way of faith. If neither parent is Catholic, it would be appropriate for at least one parent to consider their own baptism or reception into the Catholic Faith via the RCIA programme.

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