

Statement on First Holy Communion

It looks hopeful that the Government Roadmap for re-opening is on track and that we will be able to press ahead with the First Holy Communion celebrations. Although the obligation to hear Mass on a Sunday is currently suspended due to the pandemic, nonetheless, all First Holy Communion children and families should be keeping as close to the Mass as possible either by attending publicly when and where possible or by Live streaming. Children well connected to celebration of the Eucharist find it much easier to relate to the sacraments.

2020 Children:

To those children who were enrolled in the 2019/2020 First Holy Communion Programme:

From **Monday 12th April 2021**, you may contact the Parish Office by email:

stmm@btconnect.com or if necessary, by telephone: 01424 210 263 opt 4 to book a place for one of our First Holy Communion Masses:

- 1) 12noon on Saturday 26th June 2021 (max 20 children)
- 2) 12noon on Saturday 3rd July (max 20 children)

Or as an alternative, we offer a lower key affair at the parish Mass at:

- 3) 6.30pm on Thursday 1st July 2021 (max 10 children)

The Parish Office is closed until 12th April, so please do not contact them before then. Although, we hope that all restrictions have been lifted, we are still constrained by the size of the building, so each family will be allocated one bench each. If your child is being prepared for 2021 First Holy Communions, do not contact the office as these dates do not apply to you.

2021 Children:

By now, you should be well into the first four chapters of the '*I Belong*' book. The next stage in the process is for your child to make their First Reconciliation (Confession) and to talk through the first four chapters of '*I Belong*' with either Fr Simon or Fr Rajesh. At present, the restrictions do not allow for household mixing, but **from 17th May 2021**, you will be able to book an appointment through the office for you and your child to see the priests before continuing with the remaining chapters of '*I Belong*'. After 17th May 2021, we will review the parish situation, and set dates for the 2021 celebrations.

NB: this note does not apply to those children who have applied for the Sacraments under the '*We Journey Together*' (Christian Initiation for Catechetical Age Children – CICCAs).