



Saint Bonaventure's Missionary Area

*Serving the Parishes of Our Lady Queen of Peace,
Sacred Heart & Saint Peter, Saint Hilda & Saint Aidan*

Team Leader: Father Nicholas Kern

Dear Parent or Carer,

First Holy Communions in 2021

Because of the Second Lockdown last November (which we didn't expect), we have a situation at four schools in Wythenshawe where pupils who are now in Year 4 (and would normally have made their First Holy Communion in Year 3) have still not celebrated the Sacrament. The four schools are: St. John's, St. Aidan's, St. Peter's and St. Elizabeth's. The Headteachers and the priests all agree that these children should have priority. We have therefore proposed dates in late April and May.

St. Elizabeth's First Holy Communion Mass will be Saturday 15th May at 10.00am

We are still not allowed "school Masses" as such, so the Celebration will have to adhere to the safety limits of a normal parish Mass. Sadly, only TWO family members can be present at the First Holy Communion Mass. We will double the number of Masses we celebrate if necessary, so that each celebration stays within the safety limit we must observe. I regret that we cannot allow more than two for the Mass itself. St. Anthony's and Sacred Heart have already celebrated theirs under the same restrictions. After the initial disappointment, many commented that it was a slightly quieter, more prayerful ceremony. The children derived great benefit from it.

Some parents have asked if they can defer First Holy Communion until sometime in the future. This, of course, is your right as long as you understand the celebration would not therefore be with the school but within the context of a normal Sunday Mass.

We then intend to celebrate the Sacrament for children currently in Year Three. God willing, they will make their Holy Communion in the autumn term of 2021 (that is, when they have just started Year Four). Sacred Heart and St. Anthony's will be the first. Once again, if families want to defer and join a parish Sunday Mass later on, they may do so on the same conditions.

Thank you for your patience in unusual times. Although the Celebration may not be all that all of us had imagined a year ago, I hope this at least allows you to plan ahead.

Fr. Nick Kern