

The Catholic Parishes of
Corpus Christi, Ashmore Park
and
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Cannock Road

Our Lady's Presbytery
Cannock Road
Wolverhampton
WV10 8PG

Tel.: 01902 731189

4th September, 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Catechesis for First Holy Communion and Confirmation

Since the beginning of July, churches have begun to reopen following the lockdown which began in March. Participation as a family in the celebration of Holy Mass on a Sunday is central to our lives as Catholics. It is within this context that we live and grow in our faith and it is, therefore, within this context that we can properly prepare for the Sacraments of Confession/Reconciliation, the Eucharist and Confirmation. To move forward in this journey of faith, it is necessary for us to re-establish the pattern of being in church each week.

We are having to learn to adapt to the situation caused by the pandemic in all aspects of our lives. Whether it be places of work, shops, public transport, schools and churches, we find there are restrictions, social distancing and ventilation requirements to try to ensure our safety. Only very young people and those with certain medical conditions may be present in public buildings and on public transport without a face covering. Outside our own homes, nearly all our routines have changed.

With regard to our spiritual lives and wellbeing we are all affected by the disruption caused by the pandemic. Inevitably, this includes Catechesis for the Sacraments of Confession/Reconciliation, the Eucharist and Confirmation. I have been in close discussion with the priests serving other parishes within the deanery with regard to how best to move forward in this time of ongoing uncertainty.

Catechesis for those who began last autumn (2019)

In this parish, just like almost all parishes, there is a number of young people who had begun their journey towards First Holy Communion and Confirmation, who are still waiting to celebrate these Sacraments, the Catechesis and the planned dates for First Holy Communion and Confirmation necessarily having been postponed. As I have already said, once our young people have re-established the pattern of regular attendance at Sunday Mass, then Catechesis can resume and these Sacraments can be celebrated, although the specific manner as to how this will happen will not be quite in the usual format with which we are accustomed. Inevitably, it is highly unlikely that we will be in a position to celebrate these Sacraments until the Spring of 2021.

Catechesis for those who would expect to enrol this autumn

Similarly, given the disruption to our lives and to our Christian practice during these past months, and the need to re-establish regular practice of the faith, it is inevitable to postpone the formal preparation for those who were due to begin their journey towards First Holy Communion and Confirmation this autumn: after Christmas the situation will be reviewed and consideration given to when it will be possible to move forward.

May we keep one another in prayer as we continue to accompany your child on their journey of faith.

God bless you,

Fr. Goodman
Parish Priest