

First Sacraments at St Robert's Church

The parish of St Robert's is preparing for the forthcoming sacraments of initiation - First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. The most common questions we get asked are:

We haven't always been to Mass in the past. Are we welcome at St Robert's?

All parents and children are warmly welcome to Mass each week, with the 9am Sunday Mass having a particular emphasis on families in terms of music and children's liturgy.

We very much look forward to welcoming more families back to the Church, especially those linked with our Catholic schools. If you are new to St Robert's parish, or haven't been for a while, then please do make yourselves known to Fr Simon, in person. We live in a society in which there is a lot of disinformation and a good, honest chat, face to face, often dispels doubts and confusion.

The parish is delighted to see so many families already involved in the various activities of church life. It is clear they get a great deal of spiritual comfort from being part of the worshipping community.

Do we need to come to Mass for our child to receive the sacraments?

In the Baptism service, parents agree to be 'first teachers of their children in the ways of faith'. As a parish community we want to do all that we can to help parents get the most from their faith. The Mass is fundamental in this growth. This is made clear in a letter called 'Honouring Sunday' from the Bishops. It is the foundation upon which our parish builds the preparation of children by parents and by the parish for their first sacraments. It makes regular Sunday Mass attendance an integral part of the commitment.

The Sunday Mass is the very heartbeat of the Church and our personal life of faith. The Eucharist sustains us and spurs us on, renewing our gratitude and our hope. When we say 'Amen' to Christ in receiving His Body and Blood, we express the love of God which is deep within us, and at the end of Mass, when we are sent forth, we express our love for our neighbour, especially those in need. These two dimensions reveal the full meaning of our faith. We are gathered together and sent out, we pray and are fed, we worship and we adore; these are intrinsic to our lives as those baptised into Christ. (Honouring Sunday, Bishops' Conference, 2021)

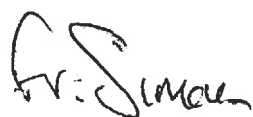
How will parents find out about preparation sessions?

Details of the sacramental programme will be announced at Mass and will be in the parish bulletin for several weeks. There will be a cut off date, however, in order to give Catechists time to prepare.

Building faith and a richer parish community

Our parish will be richer for your family's presence - we want you to be very much a part of our community with all the gifts that you bring. Please pray for us, for the school governors and for the parishioners who advise the parish priest. Our sole aim is to help people come closer to God in a way which is authentic, fulfilling and lasting.

God bless,



Fr Simon Bradbury
Parish Priest



Miss Amanda Rhodes
Headteacher, St Robert's Primary School