
First Holy Communion 2020

Dear First Communicants & Parents,

After a long wait of four months, we will soon celebrate your **First Holy Communions** in St Patrick's Church, Ballyshannon as follows:

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|-------------------------------------------|----------------|----------|--------------------------------------------|
| Saturday 5th September | at 11am | - | Creevy NS – 1 |
| | at 2pm- | - | Creevy NS – 2 |
| Saturday 12th September | at 2pm | - | Scoil Chaitríona & Rockfield NS |
| Dé Sathairn 19ú Mean Fomhair | 11r.n. | - | Gaelscoil Éirne. |

Because of the present restrictions of **Covid-19** the First Holy Communion Ceremony will be simpler than usual

- No Participation by children or parents; Readings by Teachers; Organist & Cantor only (no choir)
- Restricted seating in St Patrick's will limit each family to **one seat only**.
- **Guidelines re Social Distancing, sanitising** etc to be strictly adhered to; preferable to wear a **mask!**
- A **Photographer** will take photograph of each child receiving First Holy Communion, and will be available after the Ceremony in St Patrick's for Group and Family Photographs.
- There will be **no refreshments or gatherings** after the Ceremony.

Preparation

- The most important preparation for the reception of First Holy Communion is **praying as a family** at home and the Sunday Mass.
- Bishop McGuckian recommends all families to watch **"The Little Way Sunday School"** on **YouTube** – a preparation for the Sunday Mass each week.
- As our First Communicants did not have the customary preparation at school or in the parish, **Special Videos** for children preparing for First Confession and First Holy Communion are becoming available on **iCatholic.ie** - <https://www.icatholic.ie/come-to-the-table-of-the-lord-1/>. I urge all parents to take time to watch them with their children.
- **Practice** for the Ceremony will be done in collaboration with their teacher at school
- Each child will have an opportunity to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** before their First Communion Day.

Should you have any queries or further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Meantime, let us pray that the Reception of their First Holy Communion will be a special celebration and an occasion of renewal of faith for all our children and their families.

Le gach beannacht agus dea-ghuí,

Fr Cathal Ó Fearraí
Parish Priest.