



The Catholic Parish of Holy Cross, St Matthew and St Gilbert, Eccles

Holy Cross Presbytery, 370 Liverpool Road, Patricroft, Manchester M30 8QD
Parish Priest: Fr Martin A Collins GTCL

Tel: 0161 789 4424

Email: frmartin@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

Web: www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk

9 January 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been wonderful to see the way in which so many of you have responded to the new Sacramental Programme with regular attendance at Mass since you registered back in November. Indeed, many of your children have never missed, and week by week we see them growing in their understanding of the Mass, and settling more and more respectfully into the presence of Our Lord as they prepare to receive him for the first time in Holy Communion.

We recognise that, just as the children are advancing along their preparation for the Sacrament, so you, too, will wish to be making your own preparations and inviting guests to the First Communion Mass itself.

For all those who will be ready, we are now in a position to offer a choice of **three regular weekend Masses** in May for First Holy Communion. As far as possible, we will try to accept your first choice. However, I am sure you will appreciate that, if we are to preserve an appropriate atmosphere and be able comfortably to accommodate your guests along with other members of the parish community, it would not be possible for us to arrange for huge numbers at one of the Masses with only a few at the others. We would therefore be grateful if, on the enclosed form, you could offer **two preferences** rather than one.

The allocation will then be made at a meeting arranged for yourselves in Holy Cross Church **this Thursday** (14th January) at **7.00pm**. The meeting will also be an opportunity for us to inform you further about how the programme will develop, and for you to ask us any questions you may have. It will not be necessary for your children to attend the meeting, but do not worry if you have no childcare arrangements and need to bring them along. **Please bring the form with you** – or if it is impossible for you (or a representative) to attend, **please let us know** and either drop the form in at Holy Cross Presbytery, at one of our primary schools, or by email to frmartin@ourparishcommunity.co.uk **by Thursday at the latest**. If we need to ask you to move to your second preference, we will let you know either at the meeting or as soon as possible afterwards.

The three Masses which will be made available for First Holy Communion are as follows:

1. Saturday evening Mass (6.30pm) at **Holy Cross** on 21st May (Feast of the Holy Trinity).
2. Sunday morning Mass (9.00am) at **St Matthew's** on 22nd May (Feast of the Holy Trinity).
3. Sunday morning Mass (10.30am) at **Holy Cross** on 29th May (Feast of Corpus Christi).

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting on Thursday, and hope we will be able to offer you your preferred choice of First Communion Mass. (Please note that 29th May is at the beginning of the schools' mid-term break).

Kind regards,

Fr Martin A Collins.



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FIRST COMMUNION 2016 PREFERENCE FORM

Your name:

Your child's name:

First choice *(Please tick)*

Saturday May 21st, 6.30pm at Holy Cross

Sunday May 22nd, 9.00am at St Matthew's

Sunday May 29th, 10.30am at Holy Cross

Second choice *(Please tick)*

Saturday May 21st, 6.30pm at Holy Cross

Sunday May 22nd, 9.00am at St Matthew's

Sunday May 29th, 10.30am at Holy Cross

Either date or time will do