



St Joseph's Catholic Parish

ST JOSEPH'S PRESBYTERY, BOLTON ROAD,
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Priest: Mgr Peter Wilkinson

15 September 2009

Dear Parents,

I am very pleased to invite you to consider enrolling your child into the Sacramental Programme 2009/2010 at St. Joseph's Church. This continues the Initiation into the Catholic Church which you began when you had your child baptised. The next steps are as follows:

1. Enroll your child on the programme.

If your own Faith in Jesus Christ and involvement in the church is such that you want to enroll your child and assist your child through the next steps, there will be a meeting for you to attend on **Thursday 12 November**. This meeting will be at 2.30pm and repeated at 7.30pm for those who cannot attend the earlier one. The meetings will be held in the Parish Hall. Please attend only one or the other. This meeting is for parents and not for the children.

After you have enrolled your child, you will need to bring him/her along to a short meeting at 5.30pm on the following **Saturday, 14 November** in the hall. After this meeting we will all go into the parish Vigil Mass at 6.15pm and the children will be Enrolled on the Parish Sacramental Programme.

2. Complete the full programme.

Children who attend Catholic Schools will cover much of the preparation in school. Extra classes outside of school time will be arranged for children who do not attend Catholic Schools. Children who do not attend Catholic Schools will need to purchase some work books available from the shop in church.

Every child, whichever school they go to, will need to attend the Parish Preparation Sessions which will be on Saturday evenings at 5.00pm which will lead into the Vigil Mass at 6.15pm.

The dates of these sessions are:

Saturday 16 January 2010

Saturday 13 March 2010

Saturday 17 April 2010

Saturday 15 May 2010

Children will be expected to attend all four of these sessions if they are to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion in 2010.

3. The child will make his/her First Confession.

On **Saturday 27 February 2010** the children on the programme will make their First Confession in church at 10.30am after the 10.00am Mass to which they are also invited.

4. The child will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

On **Sunday 23 May 2010**, the Feast of Pentecost (Whit Sunday), the children on the programme will be Confirmed in a service at 3.00pm. This will not be a Mass. They will need to attend Mass either in the morning or the previous evening.

5. You will then be able to book a date for your child to receive Holy Communion for the first time.

At some time in the new year, a list will be placed on the notice board in church giving options for the date and Mass at which your child will receive Holy Communion for the first time. Following the custom of the last few years, no more than six will do this at any one Mass, and it will be a very special occasion for them. The available dates will be on the Saturdays and Sundays following the Confirmation.

6. You will be invited to join the Full Celebration at Sunday Mass.

Once all the children have received Holy Communion for the first time, they are all invited back again to make a special occasion of all receiving together and having a Communion Breakfast in the Parish Hall. This will be another time for great celebrations and for full group photographs. The date for this celebration will be **Sunday 27 June 2010**.

7. Second Meeting for parents.

Saturday 15 May 2010 5.00pm. There will be a meeting for parents while the children are having their meeting, to discuss arrangements and answer questions about the Sacraments.

I am looking forward to celebrating with you this important year in the life of your child and trust that you will enter into this joyful time with enthusiasm and give us and your child your support.

If you wish to involve your child in this programme, it will be necessary for at least one parent of your child to attend one of the meetings on the 12 November 2009. If you are unable to attend on this day then you must contact me to make other arrangements. My phone number is at the top of this letter.

Thank you and God bless,



Fr. Peter