



## St. Patrick's R.C. Primary School

Westbury Street, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 6NE

Telephone: 01642 676724 • Fax: 01642 679454

E-mail: [stpatricksrcpri@sbcschools.org.uk](mailto:stpatricksrcpri@sbcschools.org.uk)

Website: [www.stpatricksthornaby.org.uk/stpatrick](http://www.stpatricksthornaby.org.uk/stpatrick)

Head Teacher: Mr M Ryan BA (Hons) NPQH



### First Holy Communion Programme

#### **The First Holy Communion Programme will change this year.**

Father Michael, with our support, wants to strengthen the links the children have with church. The bishop is extremely supportive of this and wants the parishes of Christ the King and St Patrick's to work in the same way in how they prepare the children for this special sacrament.

The parish would like to support parents in their roles so their children are able to receive First Holy Communion with some meaning. For children to be able to receive First Holy Communion they need to attend the preparation classes held after church. **The first meeting will take place at church on the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> February.** This will mean that the children are asked to attend mass and to sit during mass in church with their parents. After mass, for 15-30 minutes the Catechists in the parish will meet the children to help prepare them. The parents can wait in the hall and have a cup of tea

In Holy Communion, the children receive the True Body of Christ. **So that the children can receive this with some level of understanding it is important that they are prepared and supported so that the day is special for them and has meaning for the child and their families.** For children who are not Catholic, we support the children in a similar way so that they prepare with their friends and they, and their families, receive a Special Blessing from Father Michael. **All are included and invited.**

**Children do not have to make their First Holy Communion.** Parents may decide that they would wish to wait until their child is older and they can receive this sacrament then. We usually offer our First Holy Communion Programme to children when they are in Year 3 so they have some understanding of the Sacrament they are receiving.

Only children who attend the preparation classes and the welcome masses will be invited to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. You may not of course be able to attend mass every week, but it is expected that there is a serious commitment. Children and families who have not attended the meetings are welcome to complete the programme when it runs again next year.

**The school will place no pressure on parents or families to attend these meetings/masses as it has to be the parents' wish for their child to take an active part in this preparation. Obviously, as you have chosen a Catholic school for your child, we would hope that you see this as a very important stage in their journey and would want to support you in any way we can.**

#### **Key dates**

Preparation classes after mass at church weekly from weekend of 13/14th February

First Confession (Reconciliation) Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April

First Holy Communion will be the weekend of 18/19<sup>th</sup> June

If you have any questions or concerns please speak with Father Michael or a member of staff in school.

Thank you

Mark Ryan  
Head teacher

