



UPDATE - November 2021

Hello and welcome to our first monthly update from the First Confession / First Holy Communion Preparation Programme.

In November, We Remember

We are in the month of November and the Church dedicates November as a time to remember our family members, friends, neighbours and classmates who have died. In the parish church we have our Altar List – this is a book filled with the names of those who have died. We pray for all those listed in the book at our weekday morning masses during November. We have also a display dedicated to our parishioners who have died since December 2019 – 90 people in total. These will be remembered at a special Mass on the 27th of November at 6pm.

Preparation Programme Update

The First Confession / First Holy Communion classes will have been brought to the church twice for morning Mass during November. When they come to the church it gives them the opportunity to become more familiar with the church and with Mass. We gave each of the children a small booklet that helps them learn the responses for Mass – when they learn some of the responses by heart, they will begin to feel more part of the Mass and the community.

Yaqing will be working with the children to help them explore the church to discover what some of the main parts of the church are called and what they are used for. They began by looking at the beautiful stained-glass windows in the church. She also thought them a new prayer and a new way of praying using movement.

Grow in Love Newsletters

So far, each child should have received up to No 3 of the Grow in Love Newsletters. They will get one of these each month. The aim of the newsletter is to help them connect what they learn from the Grow in Love programme in school with life at home and outside of school. We would encourage you to sit down with them and explore the newsletters and try some of the activities inside.

Short Guide to First Confession & First Holy Communion

If you haven't received a copy of this booklet, please let us know. It is also available on our parish website – <https://halstonstreetparish.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Halston-Street-Communion-Preparation.pdf>

This booklet is an important resource for you as you help your child prepare to receive the Sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion next year and contains lots of very useful information about the Sacraments and how to prepare as a family for them.

Family Activity - November

November is a good time to pray together as a family for those we have known and loved, who have now gone from us. Here is a short prayer time that you can try at home:

Preparation:

- Have some blank paper or card and a pen / pencil or colouring markers / crayons
- Candle
- Music
- Photo

Family Prayer Activity

1. Sit together around the kitchen table and begin by blessing yourselves: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen
2. Read the opening prayer – Lord Jesus, we come together as a family to pray for our loved ones who have died and returned to you. You have promised to be with us when we gather in your name. Welcome to our home, Lord Jesus. Amen
3. You could play a favourite piece of music or look at some photos of the person you want to remember. Maybe light a candle in front of their picture if you have one on display.
4. On the paper, begin to write a short prayer together to Jesus for the person who has died, remembering what they meant to you. An example might be:

Dear Jesus,

I want to remember _____ today.

_____ was my (friend / Grandad / Nanny / neighbour etc) and

what I miss most about them is _____ . Dear Jesus,

please look after them. Amen

5. Pray the Hail Mary together and ask Mary to help you in your times of sadness:

Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with thee
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God
Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen

6. Finish by blessing yourself – using holy water (we gave each child a small bottle of holy water to take home).

Dates for First Confession and First Holy Communion 2022

The following are the dates for the ceremonies next year.

First Confession:

George's Hill & St Paul's Brunswick Street – Wednesday 11th May 2022, 6pm.

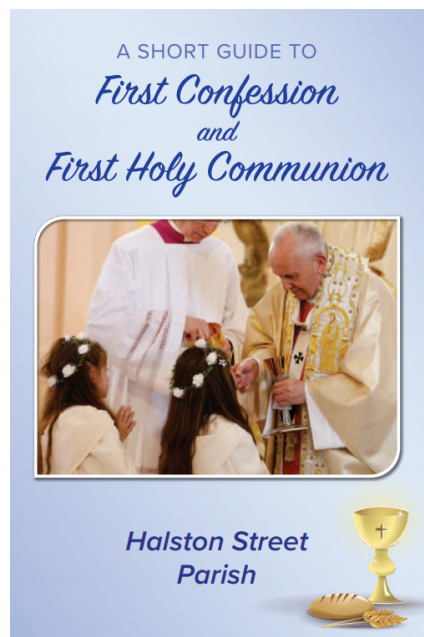
First Holy Communion:

George's Hill & St Paul's, Brunswick Street – Friday 20th May 2022, 11am.

If you have any questions relating to the ceremonies or the preparation programme, please do not hesitate to contact me by email – halstonst@gmail.com or by phone – 01 873 0675.

God bless you and your family

Fr Martin



www.halstonstreetparish.ie

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[Our Next Family Mass – Sunday 29th of November at 12 pm \(1st Sunday in Advent\)](#)