

**St. Peter's First Communion Programme 2017-18.**  
**First Communion Arrangements**

Dear Parents

These are the arrangements for your child's First Holy Communion which will take place on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm** and **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm**.

**Rehearsals**

We will have three rehearsals with the children. This will allow the children to practice processing into the Church, receiving Holy Communion, and practice the hymns with the Folk Group. Please ensure your child attends all sessions:

- **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April : Group A and D : 6pm - 7:30pm in the Church**
- **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April : Group B and C : 10am - 11.30am in the Church**
- **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April : Group B and C: 10am - 11.30am in the Church – Parent readers to attend**
- **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April : Group A and D: 11:45am – 1pm in the Church - Parent readers to attend**

**Dress Code**

Boys can wear a suit, dress pants with shirt and tie. Suit may be black, brown, navy, or white. Dress shoes only, **NO TRAINERS!**

Girls can wear an all-white dress with white dress shoes. No bare shoulders. They may wear white fold-down dress socks or white tights. **NO HIGH HEELS!** First Communion veils are encouraged.

You are welcome to purchase a First Communion tie to mark the occasion from the following companies :

Children's Special Occasion Wear – average cost £6  
Website: <https://www.childrensspecialoccasionwear.co.uk> Telephone number : 01253 364100

Parkers – average cost £4

Website : <http://stores.ebay.co.uk/parkersonline> Email : parkers\_online@live.co.uk

**On First Communion Day**

The children must arrive in communion outfits by **1:30pm on 5<sup>th</sup> May** and **12:30pm on 6<sup>th</sup> May** - if you have pre booked photographs, you will be directed straight to the photographer (be advised, if you have not pre-booked photographer, you cannot do so on the day prior to Communion mass, the photographers will be available after the mass). Bibles, Rosaries, gloves, parasols, handbags, or any other accessories can **only** be worn for the photographs. Children will not be allowed to take any of these items into the Church, as they cause distractions!

The children will process from the Hall to the Church entrance where they will be greeted and given a special blessing by our priests.

A space will be reserved in the Church for the parents (mother and father) only, of each child. All other friends and family will be seated in the unreserved pews of the Church. We strongly advise you take your seat/ place at least 15-20mins prior to the Mass starting. But as practising Catholics you will be aware of this, ensuring also, that you prepare for this Celebration. If you are not there at the beginning of Mass, your seat will be allocated to other parishioners.

**During the Mass**

Please do not take any flash pictures during the Mass, and do not come forward to take a picture when your child is receiving Communion for the first time as this is very distracting to the priests and the children. All cameras, mobile phones, iPads and other electronic devices must be switched off, firstly out of respect for the Catholic faith and secondly to prevent any child protection issues arising. **If you or a member of your family choose to ignore this request, our Ushers will ask you to leave.** The official Photographer will be at the Mass to take individual photos of your child receiving Holy Communion. As advised at the parents meeting- you will need to order the photographs direct from them.

There will be Ushers (stewards) in the church who will help you find your reserved seat. They will be responsible for ensuring that the aisles are kept clear to allow the children and priests to process in and out of the church, as well as ensuring that everyone remains quiet and respectful during the Mass. If an Usher asks you to do something, please co-operate with them.

We expect all those who are attending to behave in a polite manner and show respect for the Mass. Other parents and families will want to enjoy the mass as much as you, so please have some consideration for them. If you have friends and family who are not Catholic, or who do not normally attend Church, we ask you to advise and take responsibility in making them aware of how to behave, and respect our Faith, and Church, more importantly, Holy Mass, and the Sacrament being administered.

Have a wonderful and fulfilled celebration – God Bless.

**St. Peter's First Communion Catechists**

