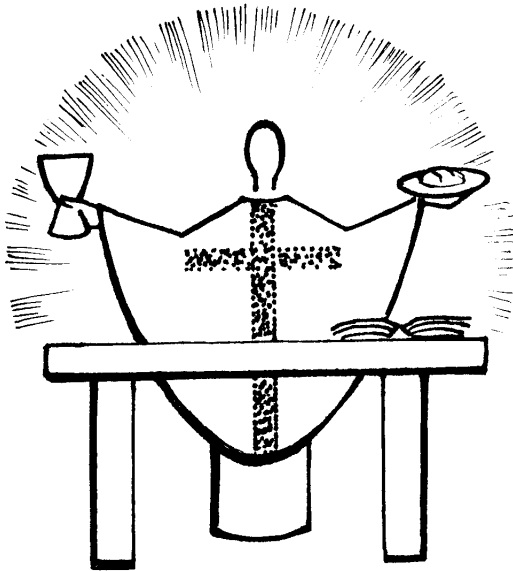




Sacred Heart
Southend-on-Sea

St John Fisher
Prittlewell



**First Reconciliation
and
First Holy Communion**
2014-15

Information for Parents

General Information

Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion is made up of four elements:

- 4 Parents Meetings
- 12 Children's Preparation Sessions
- Completion of course books
- Encouragement and support from the family in regularly bringing the children to Mass, helping with completion of the course books and bringing the children to all of the Children's Preparation Sessions.

Our Catechists are Geraldine O'Ryan, Theresa Donaghy and Amy Root and the course is overseen by our Pastoral Assistant, Anne Ackery.

At the beginning and end of the course, the children are presented to the Parish during the 11.00am Mass at Sacred Heart.

Children's Preparation Sessions

The Children's Preparation Sessions take place on Sunday mornings from 9.30am to 10.30am in Sacred Heart Hall. Please ensure that you are prompt for the start and end of the sessions (our Catechists need to be able to clear up and get into Church in time for the 11.00am Mass). For safeguarding reasons please ensure that you hand over your child to a catechist on arrival and ensure that a catechist hands them back on departure.

It is important that your children do not miss any sessions. Also, please ensure that you are on time at the start AND end of sessions. If, due to exceptional circumstances, your child is unable to be at one of the sessions, please ring Geraldine O'Ryan on 07763 935674.

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

First Reconciliation takes place during a special Service of Reconciliation.

First Holy Communion coincides with the Feast of Corpus Christi (The Body and Blood of Christ). There are two Masses, one on Saturday afternoon and the other on Sunday afternoon. If you attend St John Fisher, arrangements can be made for your child to make his/her First Holy Communion there if you prefer, at 9.00 Mass (same date as Sacred Heart).

Unless otherwise stated, all events take place in Sacred Heart Hall

Monday 17 th November 2014	Parents Meeting	7.30pm
Sunday 11 th January 2015	Children's Session	9.30am to 10. 30am
Sunday 11 th January	Presentation of the Children to the Parish	During the 11.00am Mass at Sacred Heart Church
Sunday 18 th January	Children's Session	9.30am to 10. 30am
Sunday 25 th January	Children's Session	9.30am to 10. 30am
Sunday 1 st February	Children's Session	9.30am to 10. 30am
Monday 2 nd February	Parents Meeting	7.30pm
Saturday 7 th February	First Reconciliation	2.00pm to 4.00pm in Sacred Heart Church
Sunday 1 st March	Children's Session	9.15am to 10. 30am
Monday 2 nd March	Parents Meeting	7.30pm
Sunday 8 th March	Children's Session	9.30am to 10. 30am
Sunday 15 th March	Children's Session	9.30am to 10. 30am
Sunday 22 rd March	Children's Session	9.30am to 10. 30am
Sunday 19 th April	Children's Session	9.30am to 10. 30am
Sunday 26 th April	Children's Session	9.30am to 10. 30am
Sunday 10 th May	Children's Session	9.30am to 10. 30am
Monday 11 th May	Parents Meeting	7.30pm
Sunday 17 th May	Children's Session	9.30am to 10. 30am
Sunday 17 th May	Presentation of the Children to the Parish	During the 11.00am Mass at Sacred Heart
Sunday 17 th May	Baptism of children not already baptised and Reception of children baptised in other Christian Churches	During the 11.00am Mass at Sacred Heart
Saturday 16 th May	Rehearsal of First Communion Services	2.00pm and 3.00pm in Sacred Heart Church
Saturday 6 th June	First Holy Communion	2.00pm in Sacred Heart Church
Sunday 7 th June	First Holy Communion	2.00pm in Sacred Heart Church

During the First Communion Preparation Programme, the children and their families will be asked to support the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS).



All children will be given a cardboard collection box into which they will be asked to place spare small change. All boxes will be collected at the end of the programme and all contents given to BCCS.

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society was established in 1984. Following the closure of two nearby children's home, a young Basildon priest questioned what the Catholic Church could do for children and their families undergoing short term crisis but needing long term care. With his Bishop's approval, Fr. John Armitage formed the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society to give immediate, unconditional help and care to those children and families in need.

BCCS sees its' work as a moral as well as a social responsibility. They hold strong Christian convictions regarding the value of human life and seek not only to ensure the well-being of the children for whom they care, but to do so wherever possible within the context of the family unit. They gladly embrace children of all religions, or of none.

Today, this service extends throughout the whole of the county of Essex and five East London Boroughs. A staff of fifteen includes ten professionally qualified social workers supported by four part time administrators. The Society receives no national or local statutory funding of any kind. Neither does it draw from diocesan funds.

There will be a professional photographer at the First Holy Communion Masses and many parents taking photographs. Please be aware that, by participating in the event, you are consenting to photographs being taken. It is your responsibility for deciding how your children are photographed/videoed and for removing them from the immediate area if you are concerned by any aspects of the photography/recording. For liturgical reasons, photography and video recording are not allowed during the Mass.