



SAINT MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT

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16th April 2021

Dear Parents,

We are all looking forward to celebrating First Holy Communion on Saturday 8th May 2021 at 10.00am in Saint Patrick's Church.

Unfortunately, given the current situation around Covid and the restrictions imposed, our celebration is a little different from previous years but like yourselves, we will do all we can to make it as special an occasion for our pupils as we can.

Attendance is strictly limited to immediate family of mother, father and any brothers and sisters and all adults and children of post primary age must wear a face covering throughout the ceremony. Should any other member of your family wish to view the ceremony they can do so on the parish webcam at <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-patricks-church-ballyphilip>

All families, including your child making their First Holy Communion will be sitting together in a pew. All First Communicants will be seated at the outside edge of that seat. You will be directed to your seat upon entry to the church and entry will only be granted through the main entrance, towards the back of the church.

For the actual receiving of First Holy Communion your family will escort your child to the altar to receive communion from Father McGrady. The First Communicant will go first and all others wishing to receive Holy Communion will follow. You will be directed by Mrs O'Neill or myself when it is your turn to proceed.

There are strictly no photographs or videos to be taken while in the church or during the ceremony. We also regret that we are unable to allow pictures to be taken in the chapel before or after the ceremony

Following the end of the ceremony the First Communicants will be invited up to the front of the altar for a collective official class photograph. This picture will be taken by a nominated photographer and made available for all, in both hard copy and digitally, thereafter. On this occasion, we ask that you do not move around the church to take your own photograph.

Once the photograph has been taken your child will return to your pew and you will be directed to exit the church. On Monday, when the pupils return to school, we will have a little celebration with them all within the class bubble.

Yours sincerely

Mr Gilchrist
Principal
