September 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am delighted to be able to write to you and invite your child to join us as a prospective candidate for the First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Catechetical Programme 2026-2027.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Kate Perkins. I have two daughters who both attended St. Joseph's and who are now in Year 12 at Cardinal Newman and Year 9 at Holy Cross and I have been a parishioner here for the last 24 years.

The Programme is a year of instruction, prayer and commitment and the candidates will be expected to attend the 9.30am Mass as frequently as possible with you, their parents/guardians, as the Mass is integral to the instruction which the children will receive.

The Programme begins in September and will take place in school on a Monday morning. Please note that the children will need to attend all of the sessions so that they are fully prepared. It would be lovely to see you in church on the Sunday before each session.

The dates are as follows:

Session Number	Mass	Instruction in School
1	Sunday 27th September	Monday 28th September
2	Sunday 11th October	Monday 12th October
3	Sunday 8th November	Monday 9th November
4	Sunday 6th December	Monday 7th December
5	Sunday 10th January	Monday 11th January
6	Sunday 7th February	Monday 8th February
7	Sunday 14th March	Monday 15th March
8	Sunday 18th April	Monday 19th April
9	Sunday 9th May	Monday 10th May
10	Sunday 23rd May	Monday 24th May

As you are no doubt aware, both the parish and the school are awaiting news on which parish priest will be allocated to look after us on a permanent basis, following the sad death of Father Peter earlier this year. We are currently under the care of Father Graeme Dunne, Parish Priest of St Gregory's and of St Oswald's and Dean of Chorley. I am therefore unable to give a definite date for our First Holy Communions or First Reconciliations but it is hoped that we will be able to keep to a similar date as in previous years. Our provisional date is therefore **Saturday 12th June at 10.00 a.m**. here at St. Joseph's, but please be aware that this may well be subject to change. I ask you to kindly bear with us on this matter.

If you can support and encourage your child in this year-long commitment, not only will it be much appreciated, but it will also bring you fully into the Programme as you join your child in this exciting phase in their life. Please could you complete the reply slip below and return it to school if you wish your child to enrol as a candidate.

Prior to the first session, there will be a brief meeting after 9.30am Mass on Sunday 27th September where I will show you the resource material which we will use and I will talk you through the instruction process. It will be great to see you there.

With grateful thanks in anticipation,

Kate Perkins

I would like my son/daughter _____ to enrol in the First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Catechetical Programme for 2026-2027.

Signed_____

Please print name _____ Date_____