September 2025

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 Holy Communion Catechetical Programme 2025-2026.

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 11 and Year 8 at Holy Cross and I have been a parishioner here for the last 23 years.

The Programme is a year of instruction, prayer and commitment and the candidates will be expected to attend the 10.00am 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 28th September	Monday 29th September
2	Sunday 12th October	Monday 13th October
3	Sunday 9th November	Monday 10th November
4	Sunday 14th December	Monday 15th December
5	Sunday 11th January	Monday 12th January
6	Sunday 8th February	Monday 9th February
7	Sunday 8th March	Monday 9th March
8	Sunday 19th April	Monday 20th April
9	Sunday 10th May	Monday 11th May
10	Sunday 17th May	Monday 18th May

We are anticipating that a good number of children will wish to enrol in the Programme. Therefore, to ensure that the Sacrament itself is as special, personal and prayerful as possible for your child and yourselves in our lovely little church, the children will make their First Holy Communion in two separate groupings. Your child will be allocated one of two dates, as follows:

Saturday 6th June or Saturday 13th June, both at 10.00 a.m. here at St. Joseph's.

We will confirm which date is relevant for your child once we know definite numbers.

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 10am Mass on Sunday 28th 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 Holy Communion Catechetical Programme for 2025-2026.

Signed_____

Please print name _____ Date_____