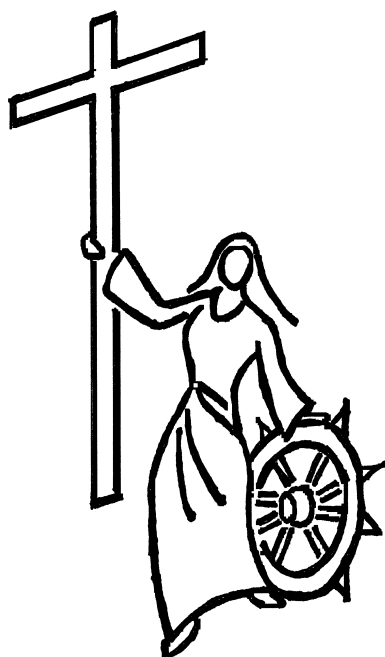


St Catharine's Catholic Church Frome



First Holy Communion
Programme
Handbook 2012

St Catharine of Alexandria
Catholic Church
Frome

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the First Holy Communion Programme 2011. This is an important stage in your child's faith journey and together we will hopefully make it a fulfilling experience for them.

Each Saturday session will begin at 9.30 am and end at 10.45 am. We will have a short prayer service in church for the last 15 minutes of each session and all parents are encouraged to attend this.

Co-operation between catechists and parents is an important part of the programme. We are always available to help you this year with any queries. The catechists are Colm Hand, Fred Bonham, Jo Perkins and myself. Your child will usually work with the same catechist each session.

To help you help your child we are arranging three parents' meetings. These will be following the CAfE format of DVD talk and discussion. **It is essential that at least one parent from each family attends these sessions.** They are an important part of the preparation for you as a family.

I look forward to working with you and your child this year and once again don't hesitate to contact me with any questions which you might have.

Deacon David Brinn,
Programme Director

01749 850 984
07966 322 965

david.brinn@stcatharines.co.uk

The Sessions

It is essential that the children **attend all** the sessions as they provide a complete programme of instruction for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. If they miss sessions their reception of the sacraments may need to be delayed until next year.

We have deliberately avoided all school holidays so that parents can go away at these times.

If your child has to miss a session through illness please let us know in advance if possible but certainly as soon as possible afterwards so that alternative arrangements can be made.

We realise that things come up and can't be avoided but hopefully this advance notice of the sessions will allow these sort of absences to be kept to a minimum.

The session dates are as follows :

7th, 14th, 21st 28th January,

4th, 25th February

10th March (First Confessions afternoon session no morning session)

17th, 24th March

21st, 28th April

12th, May

A more detailed timetable can be found later in this handbook

The Catechists

Each child in the programme is assigned to a group in which they work during the Saturday sessions. They will generally work with the same catechist each time to ensure continuity. Your child's group leader is marked. Sometimes it may be necessary for one of the reserve catechists to take the group or for groups to join together.

Deacon David Brinn. Programme Director

Fred Bonham. Group Leader

Jo Perkins Group Leader

Colm Hand Group Leader

Deacon David's Contact Details :
7 Littlewood, Witham Friary, Frome, BA11 5HE
(01749) 850984
07966322965
david.brinn@stcatharines.co.uk

Parents Talks

An important part of our preparation programme each year is a series of three parents talks along with a parents meeting near First Holy Communion Day to discuss practical arrangements

It is expected that each family will be represented at each of these evenings even if they have had a child in the programme before.

The aim of the talks is to help all parents in their vital role of supporting their child during this important year. They also provide a safe forum for Non-Catholic parents to learn more about their child's faith.

We will be using a variety of DVD based talks and will use the tried and tested CafE method which is also used in the parish Baptismal preparation programme. This will involve watching a lively DVD talk, a presentation and a chance for discussion in small groups around a table. Light refreshments will be served.

If you have babysitting problems please contact us early and we will sort something out for you

All talks start at 7.30pm in the Church Hall

Talk One - Children's Faith journey-"How do children believe?" Looks at children's faith and how it develops and how parents can help them. We will also touch on Baptism and its significance. **12th January 2011**

Talk Two - Reconciliation- "Confession do they still do that"- talks about the importance of reconciliation in our lives and how the sacrament is vital to living a Christian life. It will be further illustrated it with examples from Scripture.
19th January 2011

Talk Three - Eucharist - "The Mass do we need it ?" Looks at the importance of the Eucharist in our lives. **26th January 2011**

All talks are given on DVD by David Wells, Director of RE for Plymouth Diocese and his style is humorous and entertaining while being very informative and thought provoking

There will also be a pre-First Holy Communion Parents meeting on 17th May 2011 (This may have to be moved but unless you hear otherwise consider it on)

The Programme Used

At St Catharine's we use the "I Belong" Preparation programme from Redemptorist Publications. This uses the structure of the Mass as its overall format and each week covers a different element of the Mass.

The children's book is beautifully illustrated and is hardcover so is a lovely souvenir of this important stage in their faith preparation. The children's book contains some scripture for each session and activities which the children will start during the Saturday sessions and complete at home.

The Parent's Guide explains what the children will be doing in each session and gives some theological background. If at any time you want to discuss further the work or any issues which have arisen for yourselves reading the parents' book, please just get in touch.

First Holy Communion Day Flowers

The ladies of the parish always produce some lovely arrangements to decorate the church on First Holy Communion Day. However these are expensive. In the past many parents have made small donations towards the cost of the flowers for the day. If you would like to make a donation, please use an envelope and return it to David or direct to Adele Williamson who organizes the flower arrangers. The cost of flowers has risen somewhat of late and therefore can you let Adele or David have the money you wish to donate well in advance of FHC day so that flowers can be budgeted for.

Schedule

The page following this one contains the schedule for this year's First Holy Communion Programme. We have avoided any sessions during school holidays this year to make it easier for parents. This does mean however that for various reasons there is sometimes a big gap in sessions. Please can we ask that you make sure you know when sessions are taking place and keep up the work at home between sessions.

First Holy Communion Day is 22nd May the fourth Sunday of Eastertide.

This schedule should help you find out which sessions your child is covering so you can assist with homework and find the relevant pages in the Parents' Guide.

1	January 7th	9.30 - 10.45 am	In the name of the Father
2	January 14th	9.30 - 10.45 am	Lord have mercy
4	January 21st	9.30 - 10.45 am	Celebrating our Rescue
3	Sunday January 22nd	9.30 am Please see David or Fred before Mass to let them know you are there.	Enrolment Mass
5	January 28th	9.30 - 10.45 am	God helps me get things right
6	February 4th	9.30 - 10.45 am	Glory to God in the highest
7	February 25th	9.30 - 10.45 am	This is the Word of The Lord
8	March 10th NB no morning session today	Early afternoon. Time to be advised.	First Reconciliation
8	17 th March	9.30 - 10.45 am	Bread to Offer
9	18th March	9.30am Please meet in the Church Hall at 9.20am	Mothering Sunday Mass
10	24 th March	9.30 - 10.45 am	Fruit of the Vine
11	1st April	9.30am Please meet in the Church at 9.20am	Palm Sunday Mass and Procession. The Children line the aisle with 3ft Palms to greet the procession. Parents are asked to meet the rest of the congregation in Christ Church Hall before Mass
12	21st April	9-30-10.45am	Do this in memory of Me
13	28 th April	9.30 - 10.45 am	Body of Christ
14	12 th May	9.30 - 10.45 am	To Love and to Serve

15	Sunday 13 th May	9.30 am. Please meet in St Catharine's Hall at 9.20 am. It has been traditional for the children to bring a small bunch of flowers to place near the statue of Our Lady.	Crowning of the Statue of Our Lady at the beginning of the Parish Mass
17	Friday 25 th May	5.30 pm IN CHURCH. Each family needs an adult present for the whole session so that they know what is happening on Sunday	Rehearsal for First Holy Communion Day
18	SATURDAY 26 th May	10.30 am. Please be in your pew by 10.20 am.	First Holy Communion Day

Special Sunday Masses during the Programme

While we would hope to see you at either the 9.30am or 5.30pm mass each week, attendance at these masses is a **COMPULSORY** part of the programme for **ALL CHILDREN**

22nd January 2011

Enrolment and Presentation of Candidates Mass
9.30am St Catharine's
ALL CHILDREN IN PROGRAMME to attend
Presentation of candidates to the parish and giving of enrolment certificate

18th March 2011

Mothing Sunday Mass
9.30am St Catharine's
ALL CHILDREN IN PROGRAMME to attend
Presentation of posies to their mothers during mass
Please let David or Fred know you are present when you arrive

1st April 2011

Palm Sunday Procession and Mass
9.30 am Joint service with Christ Church in their Church Hall then Mass in St Catharine's.
ALL CHILDREN IN PROGRAMME to attend to line procession route and wave palm branches
Children should meet at 9.20am in St Catharine's Church.

13th May 2010

May Procession, Crowning of Mary and Mass
9.30am St Catharine's
ALL CHILDREN IN PROGRAMME to attend
Children process into church to the statue of Our Lady carrying flowers and crown her with a crown of flowers.
Children should meet in the Church hall at 9.20am with a small posy of flowers.

First Holy Communion Day Dress

What is the dress code ?

Boys : White Shirt, grey or Black
Trousers, Black shoes, Red Tie (we
have a supply you can hire or buy for
£4) Please put in a named
envelope and return to David or Jo **by 1st
April**

Girls : White dress with or without a
headdress. Don't feel that you have
to have a full gown, and its worth
remembering that if you have a full
skirt there is less space in the bench
for guests

We can always arrange for you to
borrow a dress if you need one.

First Reconciliation (First Confessions) 10th March 2011

Before anyone can make their First Communion, they must go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In St Catharine's the children usually make their First Confessions during Lent and are prepared for them in the weeks running up to that.

The children make their First Confessions within a short service which includes a hymn, a gospel reading, a reflection and an examination of conscience. The parents stay with their parents and the children then make their individual confession with Fr Joe in our Reconciliation room.

Many parents have found that this is a good opportunity to go to confession themselves (and so do their Easter duty) and so we provide a visiting priest for this.

Children will also need to go to confession immediately before their First Holy Communion Day. This is easily done immediately after any of the Saturday sessions when the parish Sacrament of Reconciliation takes place.

First Holy Communion Programme

Offertory Procession Rota 2012

The Offertory procession is an ancient part of the Eucharistic Liturgy. The gifts of Bread and Wine are brought forward by the people to be changed into the Body and Blood of Christ by the Priest. These gifts, together with the gifts of money also symbolise all the things which we wish to offer up to God at that mass.

It is a great privilege for the children in the First Holy Communion programme to be able to represent the whole parish community in this way.

It is also a way of introducing them all to the parish family so that they can pray for them, during this time of preparation.

NB not only the children in the programme but their parents and siblings are also to take part in the procession

January 8th - Williamson

January 22nd - All Children in the programme

January 29th - Godfrey and Waters

February 5th - Delaney

February 12th-Hora

February 19th -Swierczynski and Klucinska

February 27th -Anderson

March 4th- Hollomon- Ley and Ibbitson

March 11th - Bull

March 18th - All Children in programme

March 25th - Buchan

April 1st - All Children in programme

April 8th - Perkins

April 15th Moore

April 22nd -Berridge

May 6th -Keegan

May 8th - Morray-Jones

May 13th - All Children in programme

May 20th - Curtis

Before Mass starts please inform one of the catechists and Deacon David or Father Joe that you there on your given Sunday. Also inform the person handing out the books in the porch If you cannot do your given Sunday you can swap with someone

else in the programme BUT PLEASE INFORM US (david.brinn@stcatharines.co.uk) If you would like to the procession on your week at the 5.30pm mass please let us know in advance so that a note can be made of this for the welcoming team.

Costs

The majority of the costs of the programme are borne by the parish but we do ask parents for a contribution towards the books and materials which are used.

This year this cost will be :

£16 if you have not had a child in the programme in previous years and need a children's book and a parents' guide.

£8 if you have had a child in the programme before and therefore do not need a parents guide. (NB parents from 07 programme when the parents guide was unavailable will be provided with one)

Please could you make cheques payable to :
St Catharine's Church

In order that we can properly account for the money received could we ask that all payments are made via a named envelope handed directly to either David or Jo.

Helping Parents and Grandparents Pass on the Faith

When your child was Baptised, you, together with the Godparents, undertook to pass on the faith to your child. The Parish is committed to helping you do this. The First Holy Communion Programme is only part of this. If there is any more help which we can give you, be it in this regard, please don't hesitate to ask one of us. We can offer you resources and suggestions for activities as well as practical help with problems and questions which may arise.

In my experience there are some Frequently Asked Questions, so here are some of the answers in advance.

How many guests can we have on First Communion Day ?

In short each family is usually given 1/2 bench in the church on that day. However given the smaller number of children this year we can probably give each family one whole bench. This means in effect roughly 14 guests and the First Communion child. We do put extra seats in the church, there will be some spare benches, but it is often easier to let us know if you think you will require fewer or more spaces in church for your guests and we can try and match up larger groups with family benches which will not be full.

Why do the children need to be at the special 9.30am Masses throughout the programme ?

We would hope that you would be at either the 9.30 or 5.30 Parish masses each Sunday, not just the Special Celebrations and the Sunday when your family is taking up the offertory procession. As with the weekly offertory processions, these are a chance for the children to become familiar to the parish community, so that they can pray for them and share in the journey your children are on.

We attend 5.30 pm Mass usually on Sundays can my child do the offertory procession that mass ?

YES ! Just let me know in advance.

What about after the Mass on 26th May, is there a party ?

We have found that most families want to have their own celebrations so we just have a cup of tea for the adults and a small buffet for the children in the hall afterward.

What if we have to unavoidably miss a session ?

While it is important that all children attend all sessions, we do realise that there will be situations such as illness where it is unavoidable that they can't. Please let us know in advance if at all possible. If your child misses 2 sessions in the programme, then it may not be possible for them to complete it without extra sessions. I can arrange these given notice. It is important if your child misses a session, that they catch the work they have missed up before the next session.

Is there Homework between sessions ?

Yes the children will have work to do between sessions, which will involve writing, colouring and puzzles. It is helpful in the weeks running up to the First Communion Day, that you re-read the Bible stories in the programme book, to help refresh and prepare the children.

Do I have to show you a Baptism Certificate ?

If your child was baptised at St Catharine's then we can look it up in the registers. Otherwise I will need to see their Baptism certificate before their First Reconciliation.

My child does not go to St Louis is this a hindrance?

Not at all, the programme is designed to stand alone from the religious education programme in the school. If you feel your child would benefit from some extra work on basic Catholic teaching such as Baptism, then I can arrange this.

My child has some special medical or educational needs should I let you know ?

If you have not already done so on the registration form, please tell us as it will not only allow us to help your child get the most out of the programme, but also in terms of medical needs is important for safety reasons.

If I have any other queries ?

Just ring me on 01749 850984 or email david.brinn@stcatharines.co.uk and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

About St Catharine's

On the following pages you will find information about activities, groups and events which happen at St Catharine's. You are encouraged to take advantage of these and to join in where possible. This is a good way for your child to see that there is more to being a Catholic than just attending mass.

There are also activities which will give you support in both your faith and personal lives. We have also included activities which are more aimed at your younger and older children. Further details can be found on the parish notice boards or from David.

The St Vincent be Paul Society

This is a Catholic organisation set up to help people who are in any kind of need.

Here in Frome we visit people who are elderly, ill, lonely or in trouble and offer whatever assistance we can. This usually means just chatting or listening or doing little jobs they might find difficult.

Occasionally we might offer financial assistance or other material help but our resources here are limited. In urban areas the Society goes much further by helping the homeless, prisoners etc and by running Charity Shops to provide cheap clothing and furniture. In general we are willing to help anybody in need as well as we can.

If you feel that the SVP could be of any help to you at any time please contact Deacon David or Tom McIntyre (he is in the choir) If you would like to get involved in this ministry the SVP meet monthly in the Church Hall and would welcome new members.

Rite of Christian Initiation Of Adults A Journey in Faith

Are you a non-catholic parent who would like to know more about your child's faith ?

Would you like to enquire about being received into the Catholic Church ?

Are you a Baptised Catholic who has never been confirmed or made your First Holy Communion ?

Then the RCIA group is for you.

Meetings are currently held on Monday evening but this could change if necessary

Further details from Sam Brinn
(01749) 850984



Music at St Catharine's



The Church choir sings at 9.30 am Sunday mass and at Masses on Feasts such as Easter and Christmas. They would welcome new members. They meet for rehearsal on Wednesday Evenings at 7.30 pm in the

Church

Further details from Sam Brinn (01749) 850984

The Parish Folk Group sings and plays at the 5.30 pm mass on the last Sunday of the Month and at the 9.30am mass on the Second Sunday of the Month They meet for rehearsal at 4.30 pm in the Church Hall immediately before the 5.30pm mass
New members always welcome

The Catholic Women's League

The Catholic Women's League was founded in 1906 by Margaret Fletcher.

The CWL encourages its members to work both in the parish and in the community.

Activities include:

- Helping with catechetics
- Parish work

Further details from Joe Krige (01373) 451959 •

- . Visiting the sick
- . Creche facilities at courts
- Ecumenism
- . Retreats and bays of Recollection
- . Study week-ends
- . Social events
- . Supporting other charities e.g. CAFOD
- .

In Frome, the group meets on the first Thursday of the Month after Morning Mass in the Church Hall. They are a small friendly group and would welcome new members. They promise you a warm welcome and support.

First Holy Communion Day Photos

Each year the parish organises a photographer to give you a professional souvenir of this important day. The finished products are very well received and the charges are very reasonable.

We usually take a group photograph after the service and each child is photographed when receiving Holy Communion for the first time.

Details of these will be given to you at a later date once firm arrangements and costs are known.