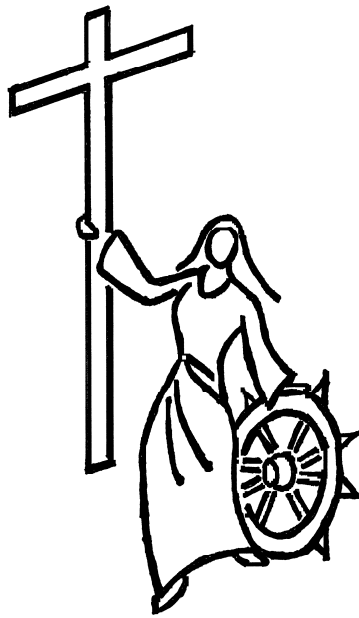


St Catharine's Catholic Church Frome



First Holy Communion
Programme
Handbook 2010

St Catharine of Alexandria
Catholic Church
Frome

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the First Holy Communion Programme 2010. 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 Fred Bonham, Ann Febrey 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@voluntas.fsnet.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 :

16th, 23rd, 30th January,

6th, February,

6th March (First Confessions afternoon session)

13th, 20th, 27th March

24th April,

8th, 15th, 22nd 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

Ann Febrey Group Leader

Frances Krige. Reserve Catechist

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

Parents Talks

An important part of our preparation programme each year is a series of three parents talks

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 change 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. **21st January 2009**

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.
25th February 2009

Talk Three - Eucharist - "The Mass do we need it ?" Looks at the importance of the Eucharist in our lives. **20th May 2009**

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

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.

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 6th June, as it is the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ it is the pre-eminent day for children to make their First Holy Communion. We realize that this is in half term but hope that you can make your plans accordingly, given the importance of this day in your child's life.

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 16th	9.30 - 10.45 am	In the name of the Father
2	January 23rd	9.30 - 10.45 am	Lord have mercy
3	Sunday January 24th	9.30 am Please see David or Fred before Mass to let them know you are there.	Enrolment Mass
4	February 6th	9.30 - 10.45 am	Celebrating our Rescue
5	February 27th	9.30 - 10.45 am	God helps me get things right
6	March 6 th NB no morning session today	Early afternoon. Times to be advised. There will be two services so that no one has to wait a long time	First Reconciliation
7	13 th March	9.30 - 10.45 am	Glory to God in the highest
8	Sunday 14th March	9.30 am	Mothering Sunday Mass
9	20th March	9.30 - 10.45 am	This is the Word of the Lord
10	27 th March	9.30 - 10.45 am	Bread to Offer
11	Sunday 28 th March	9.30 am. Please meet in St Catharines Hall at 9.15 am.	Palm Sunday Procession
12	24 th April	9.30 - 10.45 am	Fruit of the Vine
13	8 th May	9.30 - 10.45 am	Do this in memory of Me
14	Sunday 9 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
15	15 th May	9.30 - 10.45 am	Body of Christ
16	22nd May	9.30 - 10.45 am	To love and to serve
17	Friday 4th June	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	Sunday 6 th June	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**

24th January 2010

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

14th March 2010

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 Sara know you are present when u you arrive

28th March 2010

Palm Sunday Procession and Mass
9.30 am Joint service with Christ Church in our 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 9.15am in St Catharine's Church Hall.

9th 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

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) 6th March 2010

Before anyone can make their First Communion, they must go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In St Catharine's the children make their First Confessions during Lent and are prepared for them in the weeks running up to that. This is so that the link is clearly made between the sacrament and the penitential nature of Lent.

The children make their First Confessions within a short service which includes a hymn, a gospel reading, a reflection and an examination of conscience. They 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.

There will be two services during the afternoon, so as to avoid long waits for any child.

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 2010

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 invited
to take part in the procession**

January 17th - Eva Perkins and Ciaran Garvey

January 24th - All Children in programme

January 31st - Beth Rigby-Dent and Daniel Conley

February 7th - Kitty Sweeney and Martha Atkinson and Daniel Cowley

February 14th and 21st NO OFFERTORY FROM FHC PROGRAMME

February 28th Sarah Jane and James Daly and Dillon Chapman

March 7th Lily Charmain and George Little

March 14th All children in programme

March 21st - Corey Plumridge and Matthew Rabago

March 28th - All Children in programme

April 4th - NO OFFERTORY FROM FHC PROGRAMME

April 11th - NO OFFERTORY FROM FHC PROGRAMME

April 18th NO OFFERTORY FROM FHC PROGRAMME

April 25th - Ryan Tanner and Sophie Brown

May 2nd - Korene Wheadon and Bath Lucas

May 9th - All Children in the programme

May 16th - James Phillips and Madeline Green and Jack Buchan

May 23rd - Eloise Goodman and Mary Haine and Tallulah Richards

May 30th - Rachel Brown and Dillon Chapman

Before Mass starts please inform one of the catechists and Deacon David or Father Joe that you there on your given Sunday.

If you cannot do your given Sunday you can swap with someone else in the programme
BUT PLEASE INFORM DAVID (david@voluntas.fsnet.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 :

£14 if you have not had a child in the programme in previous years and need a children's book and a parents' guide.

£7 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 given 1/2 bench in the church on that day. This means in effect roughly 6 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 6th June, 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@voluntas.fsnet.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 fortnightly 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 evenin

Further details from Sam Brinn (01749) 850984



St Catharine's Catholic Church Activities for Children and Families

Welcome!

Some of the activities for children and families in January to March 2010

Little Footprints Baby and Toddler Group

for children aged 0-5 years



Every Wednesday in term time,
1.15 - 2.45pm in the Parish Hall.

Play time, activities, refreshments, singing
and prayer time.

Come along and join the fun!

Little Footprints EXTRAS!

Some of us also meet up at the following places once a month:

PLAYTIME at FROME LEISURE CENTRE

Fun and games with play equipment!

£3:80 per child

Meet 9.30 - 11am

On Monday 11th January 2010

Monday 8th February 2010

Monday 8th March 2010

JUNCTION 21 SOFT PLAY AREA

for soft play and bouncing fun!

Prices at www.junction21.co.uk

Meet 11am onwards

On Thursday 21st January 2010

Thursday 25th February 2010

Thursday 18th March 2010

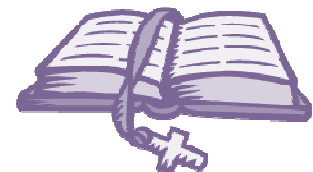
For more info about Little Footprints, contact Carley Hickey on 451487.

Please visit our parish website at www.stcatharines.co.uk

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy runs during every **9.30am Sunday Mass** in term time.

The children join either the pre-school or older group (pre-school children should be accompanied), and are taken to separate places and taught about the Gospel in a way appropriate to their age.



After Christmas, Children's Liturgy begins on **Sunday 10th January**, with a break on 14th and 21st February for half term.

Please Note : On the Special Celebration

Sundays in the Programme, children in the First Holy Communion Programme are asked not to go to Children's Liturgy but to remain in Church. This is to allow them to be able to understand the whole mass, which forms the backbone of their preparation programme.

Mother's Prayers

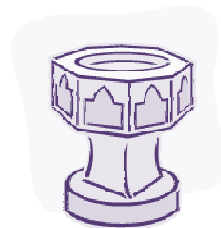
Meets once a month in the Parish Hall - the next dates are: Thursday 14th Jan, 11th Feb and 11th Mar 2010, at 10 - 11.30am.

Come along and join in the prayers for our children, families and those throughout the world.

Children welcome - toys and refreshments available.



Baptism Preparation



St Catharine's run Baptism Preparation in January, June and September each year.

If you would like your child to be baptised before June 2010, the dates for the January Baptism preparation are: 28th January, 4th February and 11th February.

For more information, and to register for Baptism Preparation, please contact Pollie Milligan on 471386 or email polliem@talktalk.net.

If you would like more information on any of these activities - or would just like to meet other families with young children - please call Kay Rhodes on 473761 or 07962 918854.

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. They meet for rehearsal at 4.30 pm in the Church Hall immediately before this mass and afterwards have a bring and share meal together. New members always welcome

Further details from Joe Krige (01373) 451959

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
- 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.