

SAINT PHILOMENA'S PARISH

PALMERSTOWN DUBLIN 20

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07 December 2017

Parents/Guardians of Children receiving
First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

RE: FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

We are moving into the final stage of preparation for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. We encourage as many families as possible to bring children to weekly Sunday Mass where they will grow to know their local parish community and learn to participate in the ritual of the Mass. The easiest way to learn the prayers is through weekly participation at Mass. There are less than four months preparation remaining and it is important that all engage, at this stage.

Children/Families are catered for in a particular way at 12 Mass each week in St Philomena's Church. Children learn the hymns for first Holy Communion and will start to read some of the prayers this coming Sunday. The assistance of parents is required if this is to happen as the parish volunteers are stretched in their service in various works of the parish. Also, your support, ideas and participation have much to offer to the parish community and to the ongoing preparation.

Please take note of the dates below:-

- **Meeting for parents of the boys and girls concerning the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Penance will take place from 7.30pm – 8.15pm on Wednesday, 17 January 2018 in St Philomena's Church.**
- **The final Core Group meeting will take place at 8pm - 8.45pm on Monday, 12 February 2018 in Le Chéile House, behind the church.**

- **Celebration of First Reconciliation:-**

St Brigid's School on Monday 12 March 2018 at 7.30pm

St Lorcan's School on Thursday 15 March 2018 at 7.30pm

- **Celebration of First Holy Communion at 12.00 noon on the following Sundays:**

29 April 2018: Ms Andrew's class

06 May 2018: Ms Delaney's class

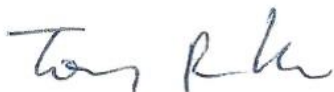
20 May 2018: Mr Phelan's & Ms Fenton's classes

27 May 2018: Ms Clarke's class

The practice for all parents/guardians and first Communion candidates for each of the Sundays above will take place at **7.30pm on the Thursday before** the weekend during which your child's celebration occurs. You will receive a reminder letter concerning the practice after the Easter holidays.

As Christmas approaches, I and the parish volunteers, hope that you will enjoy this time of preparation as we open our hearts to welcome the newness of God's love for us at Christmas. Please take note of the celebrations that will be taking place in the church during Christmas, at which your family will be most welcome. See **www.palmerstownparish.com** for all details. It is our hope that each one will grow to know how precious they are before God and that we are each truly connected with God.

Every blessing on your family through Advent and Christmas



Canon Tony Reilly PP