



Parishes of St Agnes & St Aidan

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Registered Charity: 232709

Parish Priest: Fr. Anton Fernandopulle

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope that you and yours have all managed to keep safe and well throughout these strange and difficult times. We are aware that for many of you there will have been many difficulties to cope with during the extended Lockdown.

There have obviously had to be a lot of changes to the ways we do normal, everyday things as well as there being an impact on the big occasions and events we would like to celebrate. One of these being your child's First Holy Communion.

We recently had a meeting with the Diocese and there does not seem to be one definitive answer as to how we proceed, but rather, at the moment, each parish is to make decisions based on what is safe for them to accommodate.

With this in mind, we would like to put the following proposal to you:

- You will have a choice of 3 dates (5 allotted times) with a maximum of 15 children per Mass. All celebrations will take place at St. Agnes Church as it is larger and able to accommodate larger numbers.
- You will need to book one of these dates by calling the parish office **0151 489 3085** between 9am -12:30pm (Mon-Thurs) and 9am-4pm (Fri). As we cannot accommodate changes, it is important you think carefully before making your booking. It will not be possible to arrange for friends to celebrate their Communion together as we will have to operate on a 'first come, first served' basis.
- Each Mass will be open to all schools, so it will not be school specific.
- Mass has to be limited to no longer than 40minutes. There will therefore be no opportunity for the children's usual involvement in readings, prayers or the offertory.
- There will be no singing.
- The children will not be allowed into the sanctuary to receive communion, but will do so in your family groups instead.
- Family groups will be limited to parents or guardians, siblings and grandparents. We will need a definite number from you when booking.
- You will be allocated a bench per family.
- Each household will need to leave contact details for track and trace.
- Social distancing measures, must be adhered to.
- You will be allocated an arrival time. Please stick to this in order to avoid large numbers arriving at the same time. This will significantly help our volunteer stewards. Please come prepared if it is raining. Our volunteer stewards will endeavour to seat everyone as quickly as possible, but safety will be our main priority.
- All family members except children will need to wear face coverings.
- You will not be able to congregate before or after Mass.

- Toilets will not be available.
- Some of you will already have bought special clothes and shoes for the planned occasion in May or June. For those of you who have not, please do not feel that you need to do so. (Girls may not wear gloves.)

We will endeavour to still make this as special an occasion as possible. We understand the disappointment not having the big ceremony will be for some of you, so if these arrangements do not suit you, we will welcome you to a future programme when perhaps measures will not be so strict. (We cannot be sure when that will be.) We appreciate your understanding regarding the measures that we are having to put in place.

Many thanks,

Fr. Anton and Christine Ball

Available Dates and Times:

Saturday 19 th September 2020	10am OR 12pm
Saturday 26 th September 2020	10am OR 12pm
Saturday 3 rd October 2020	10am