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## Registration Form for First Holy Communion

Child's Name	
Date of Birth	
Place of Baptism	Church Town
Date of Baptism	
	If not at Sacred Heart, we will need to see the certificate
Parents' Names	
Address	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
School	
Parish Address	31 Vicarage Road, Henley-On-Thames. RG9 1HT
Parish Tel. Email	01491 573 258 sh.henley@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Mass Times	Saturday (for Sunday) 6 pm Sunday 8.30 & 10.30 am

### Are there Parents meetings?

Yes, there are four Parents meetings which prepare for each of the celebrations, especially the celebration of First Confession and First Communion. We will also discuss the practical aspects of the celebration, and any other questions which may arise.

### What should parents do?

At a child's Baptism the Priest blesses the Father with these words:

*'He and his wife will be the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith. May they also be the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do'.*

We encourage parents to set an example their Child can follow, to come to Mass, to encourage their child and participate. In short, to fulfil this prayer made at their Child's baptism.

**If a parent is not a Catholic**, they are most welcome participate as much as they can, or wish. If they would like to know more about First Holy Communion, or the Catholic faith, they are very welcome to chat to Canon Paul.

**First Holy Communion  
will be celebrated on  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
at 12:00 noon**

The Parish of Sacred Heart  
Henley on Thames



# First Holy Communion

This leaflet gives a brief introduction to the celebration of First Holy Communion and answers the following questions:

- When is First Holy Communion celebrated?
- How is my child prepared to celebrate the Sacrament?
- What we have to do as a family?
- How do I enrol?

## What is First Holy Communion about?

*'The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life'.*

*(Catechism of the Catholic Church)*

As the source of Christian life, whenever we receive the Eucharist, we unite ourselves with Jesus Christ, the bread of eternal life. We enter into communion with all our brothers and sisters in the Catholic Church, and are strengthened in our faith.

As the summit of Christian life, reception of the Eucharist enables us to become full members of the Catholic Church, in union with Francis, our Pope and Bernard our Bishop; and the family of this parish. As a summit, the celebration of Mass is the highpoint of our prayer and worship of God.

We are inviting and leading our Children into deeper union with Jesus and his Church, revealed in greater love of God and our neighbour; made visible in life of our Parish community. When we gather at Mass, we remember and celebrate that at the Last Supper, Jesus gave us the Sacrament of his Body and Blood as a memorial of him; and as the sacrifice that takes away our sins.

Preparing for First Holy Communion, we invite our Children to spend this year, coming closer to Jesus and sharing the life of our parish family.

*"Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and I shall be healed".*

from the Communion Rite.

## How is First Holy Communion organised in Henley on Thames?

The celebration of First Holy Communion takes place in May/June. Parents are offered two dates to choose from. This enables each family the possibility to invite as many people as they wish to join them, and recognises that not everyone would fit into the Church if we celebrated the sacrament on one day!

Preparation for the Sacrament begins in the autumn and carries on throughout the academic year. This is because the celebration of the Eucharist is an essential part of Catholic life. It is at Mass that the parish community is seen in all its richness. Full participation is essential.

Throughout the Year there are four celebrations when we mark various stages in the journey along which each child progresses.

These are:

Mass of Enrolment	After Half Term
Presentation of Gospels	Beginning of Feb.
First Confession	Mid Lent
Presentation of Prayers	Eastertide

Prior to each of these celebrations there is a meeting for Parents during which we will discuss the significance of the celebration of First Confession and First Communion, for our children, for our families and for the Parish of Sacred Heart.

**Those young people at non-Catholic schools** are asked to attend a course which takes place on Sunday mornings, between the two masses = 9.15 -10.15am. This takes place in the Crypt Room and is led by an experienced team of Parish Catechists.

The Children follow a set text book and are encouraged to grow in the love of Jesus and his Church.

**Sacred Heart Catholic School** teach the same course with all the pupils in Year 3. This course is designed to help the children reflect on the meaning of their Catholic faith in their lives and deepen their love and knowledge of God and understand the prayers of the Mass.

It is a time when parish and school, parents and priest, teachers and catechists all work together to enable the young people in their journey towards receiving the Body of Christ at their First Holy Communion.

It is a time of blessing for families, it is a time when the faith we have can be renewed and revitalised. It is a time when we can all rejoice that our faith and the faith of the parish is something we care about, something alive, something to be passed on to the next generation.

We invite each family in the parish to value the journey their child will undertake. To support, encourage and celebrate and come closer together, through this process.

Yours in Christ

Canon Paul