



The Parish of St John XXIII

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Preparation for the Sacraments of First Confession & First Holy Communion in the Parish of St John XXIII, 2026

5th September 2025

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I write to inform you about our forthcoming parish sacramental preparation programme for Reconciliation (First Confession) and Eucharist (First Holy Communion) available to baptised Catholic children who are currently at least 8 years old (school year 4+), who have been properly prepared. We thank you for your interest, at this time, and for reflecting deeply upon this most wonderful and grace-filled opportunity. This is not a decision to be taken lightly, as it involves building upon the commitment you made as parents/guardians at your child's baptism:

“...they (the parents) will be the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith. May they be also the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

The New Rite of Baptism

As Catholics, we believe that the purpose of the Sacraments is to sanctify us and make us holy, to build up the body of Christ (which is the Church) and to give worship to Almighty God; and in doing so, to fulfil our vocation as followers of Christ. As a Parish, we would therefore like to provide your child with the opportunity of receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist in 2026 – building upon your own faith commitment.

The Parish itself leads this programme and will work together with yourselves, catechist(s), the schools, and our worshipping community in helping prepare your child in this next step in their Catholic faith.

If you would like to enquire further about these sacraments for your child/children, please fill in the slip at the end of this letter and return it to myself at the Saturday/Sunday Masses or to the Parish office at St Joseph's Presbytery, **by Sunday 19th October 2025**. This is vital to establish how many families we must engage, the various ages of children and their spread across the various districts of our parish. The programme will then be coordinated and organised and run from December 2025 through to late May 2026.

Our Parish First Confession programme, for this year, will generally take place between December 2025 and February 2026.

The First Holy Communion aspect of the programme will follow running around late March to the middle of May 2026.

Attendance at Sunday Masses and at our meetings are a mandatory aspect of the preparation programme and so it is particularly important that you, your child and family do your very best to attend.

I would like to invite you to an information session for parents on the following date before Sunday Masses, Sunday 19th October, 10.30am at St Joseph's church.

More specific session/Mass dates will be issued at these sessions. Attendance at the information session is important in order to gain a thorough understanding about the programme, our obligations as Catholics, and how you can give your child your full support in this preparation programme.

The best way to keep up-to-date and informed about the programme is by weekly participation at the 6.00pm Mass on Saturday evening at English Martyrs, or on Sundays at the 11.15am or 5.00pm Masses at St Joseph. If you have not been attending Mass regularly then now is the time to renew this important commitment for the sake of your child. This should not be seen merely as an obligation but also as a wonderful opportunity to enrich your own life of faith and that of your child. Confessions are available regularly, see our parish newsletter. If these times are not convenient, I would be happy to meet you at a more convenient time.

If you do not live in the parish of St John XXIII, Preston (I will advise upon personal enquiry) then please discuss this with your own Parish Priest as soon as possible.

If you feel you and your child are indeed ready to commit (and it is indeed a further commitment!) to this great journey of faith, then please complete the attached application form (**along with a copy of your child's certificate of baptism**) and return it directly to me at Mass or St Joseph's Presbytery.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Fr. D. Etienne
Parish Priest
St John XXIII, Preston

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of First Confession & First Holy Communion
in the Parish of St John XXIII, 2026**



**I REQUEST THAT MY CHILD BE PART OF THE FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST
HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: 2026**

**APPLICATION FORM:
(PLEASE PRINT)**

Child's Name:.....

Child's date of birthAge:

Child's School:.....

Child's Place
& Date of Baptism:.....

(A certificate of Baptism should be provided to the priests with this form).

Promise of Child: *"I promise to participate in the parish Sunday Masses, and in the parish preparations for the Sacraments of Reconciliation & the Holy Eucharist"*

Signed: (Candidate): Date:

Parents / Guardian's Name:.....

Telephone:.....

Email Address:.....

Address:.....

Candidate's Medical Conditions: Please complete if your child has any medical conditions we should be aware of (including food allergies):

Promise of Parent/Guardian: *"I promise to do everything I can to support and encourage my son/daughter in their preparations for 1st Confession & 1st Eucharist - as per my child's promise above)".*

Parent / Guardian's SignatureDate:

[By signing this form you agree to these details will be confidentially maintained in the Parish Office for the purposes of the Parish records – please contact the presbytery if these details change or if you move out of the parish].