



StPeter & StThomas More
CATHOLIC PARISH

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A Message to the Children and Parents on the Parish Sacramental Programme 2019-20

4 July 2020

Dear Parents and Children

I hope you are all safe and well and you have managed to come through this difficult time in one piece! Never the less, we are still travelling through very difficult days as we strive to deal with the changes brought about by COVID-19. One of the areas which has been affected is the preparation the children for their First Holy Communion: a special day in their lives and in their faith journey. It should be a day that reminds us as a parish of the Lord's call to come closer to Him, to come closer as we try to show by our words and example that we are his followers.

Last week the Bishop, with the Vicars General, decided that First Holy Communion would be delayed until the autumn of this year.

As you know, from last weekend, the Government is allowing places of worship to begin opening their door;s but this requires strict adherence to the guidance from both the government and the Bishops Conference of England and Wales. The number of Masses will be greatly reduced as will the numbers being allowed to attend. In the Parish of St Peter and S Thomas More, we are still making preparations to resume public Mass and so will not be opening this week.

During June, I prayed for those of you preparing for Holy Communion and your families; I asked the Lord to keep you all well as we make our way through these difficult days.

In the Autumn we will have a clearer picture of how we may proceed. We will look to organise the Communion Masses as we had planned and, as a parish, celebrate the gift of our young people, who are the Church of today and the hope of tomorrow.

I would like to end by thanking our Sacramental Programme Teams and primary schools for their help and support, and offers to do all they can for the children when we meet again.

God Bless

Fr Peter