

MEMO RE: FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

TO: PARENTS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN

FROM: FR. JOE

As we are all aware, we are once again, in a period of restriction.

These restrictions, which form part of our ongoing battle against this dangerous virus, have a direct bearing on our plan for First Holy Communion.

I am sorry indeed to have to once again postpone what is indeed a special day in the life of the children.

Whilst I appreciate for many of you this is unwelcome news, I am also conscious, for perhaps as many again, this will be a relief.

(The present restrictions were announced just as we were consulting with you as parents regarding how we might move forward, and I did not receive results of the survey from all schools.

However it is interesting to note that in the return from one of our largest schools opinion was divided fifty/fifty.

I can understand for many of you it was a challenge to explain to the children why only one family member would be present in church with them and the rest of the family greeting them outside.

Perhaps it is good that we do not find ourselves in that position, though as an aside I have heard that often the children and young people are displaying a much better coping with the present crisis than us adults).

For the moment it would not be prudent to speculate on possible new dates. We will of course celebrate First Holy Communion when it is appropriate, and most importantly, safe to do so.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you, both at home and school, for your continued patience and support in these difficult days. Thanks especially to those of you who have volunteered suggestions and indeed practical help. In particular I would like to express gratitude to our First Holy Communion Coordinator, Lorraine O'Connor.

I intend to address the children themselves, in your presence, on Tuesday August 18th at 7.30 pm on the parish webcam. This short talk is entitled A Word on your First Holy Communion.

Let's keep each other in prayer, yours fraternally, Fr Joe