

The Parish of Saint Albert the Great

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26th June 2023

Dear parents and guardians

RE: SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES 2023/2024

The school holidays are approaching, and soon the children will break up for 6 weeks of fun and excitement, and maybe even a holiday. Whatever you do during the summer, I hope you have a great time.

When they come back to school in September, they will be in Year 4, and it will be a big year for them. In this coming year your children will be prepared for, and celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. I write to you now to inform you of the dates and procedures that are in place for the coming year, so you have plenty of notice.

For your child to be entered into the programme, your child **MUST** be baptised, and proof of baptism is necessary. If your child was baptised in any other church than St. Albert's, please approach the parish and request a baptismal certificate. If your child was baptised in St. Albert's, I will have the record here. Any children not baptised, must receive the sacrament of Baptism before receiving their first Reconciliation or Holy Communion. Please see me as soon as possible to arrange their baptism.

Application forms for entry into the preparation programme will be available on Sundays after Mass during September, they will not be available at any other time. The closing date for entry into the preparation programme will be Friday 29th September, after that no applications will be accepted and a Mass of Enrolment will be held on **Sunday 22nd October** at 10.00am in St. Albert's church, which attendance is compulsory.

The children will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Tuesday 5th December** beginning at 1.30pm and the preparation meetings for both children and parents/guardians will be held on

Sunday 5th November and Sunday 3rd December after the 10.00am Mass.

First Holy Communions will be, for

St. Brigid's Saturday 27th April at 10.00am

St. Albert's Saturday 11th May at 10.00am

Children from Stockbridge Village Primary School or other children will be informed of which day they will make their First Holy Communion.

Preparation Meetings for parents and children will be held on

Sunday 7th January

Sunday 3rd March

Sunday 4th February

Sunday 14th April

After the 10.00am Mass.

It is compulsory for parents/guardians and children to attend **ALL** meetings, and failure to attend (without prior apology) any meetings, will be seen as you not wanting your child to take part in the sacramental programmes this year.

The best preparation for the children in preparing for First Holy Communion, would be attending Mass every Sunday, and I would encourage you to make this part of your weekend from now on.

I hope that this coming year will be a special one for the children as they meet the Lord in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, and an opportunity for you to rekindle your faith, as we prepare the children in their journey of faith.

If you wish to speak to me, please do not hesitate to contact me. May I wish you all a very pleasant summer, and I look forward to working with you on your child's sacramental preparation.

Yours sincerely

Father David

Father David. A. Gamble
Parish Priest