

First Reconciliation and First Communion

Stage 1: Reflect

Enrolment Mass:

Saturday 26th / Sunday 27th November 2016 – All Masses in the pastoral area.

The purpose of the enrolment Mass is to introduce the families to the parish community. It is an important event in the life of the church when families take such a step in their faith development. It is appropriate to celebrate your commitment within a weekend Mass. You and your child will be invited to present your enrolment certificate. You will receive a candle to take home to use in a prayer space .

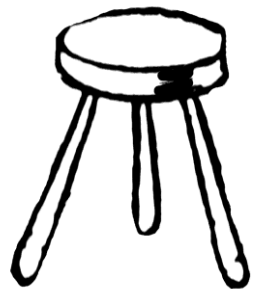
School involvement

Much of the preparation work with your child is carried out through the school but the parish and home also have important roles to play in helping our children and our community to understand what it means to share in Jesus, the Bread of Life.

Home involvement

We encourage you, over the next weeks to:

- Talk to your child about your memories of first Communion.
- Talk to your child about their Baptism and why it was important to you that they were Baptised.
- Talk about the enrolment form and promises and put ideas together on how you can keep those promises together.
- Pray together.
- Drop into a church together and chat about the different parts of it.
- Come to Mass together.



Prayer

There are many different forms of prayer. The purpose of prayer is to help us to reflect on how our lives bring God present within our world. Some suggestions for prayer are:

- Use the prayers your child is learning in school, pray them together.
- As a family use a 'grace before meals' when you gather to eat together.
- On one day in the week, light the candle you receive at the enrolment Mass at your family meal and say why you are lighting it.
- This year include your child's baptism candle in the table setting at special occasions, birthdays, Christmas, Easter and so on.

At the end of the day sit with your child and reflect on the day using the following format:

What was something that made you happy today?

What was something that made you feel sad?

What are you looking forward to tomorrow?

These three simple questions can be a springboard for follow-up conversation.

Conclude then with a prayer:

We thank you God for what made us happy this day and we ask you to help us with what made us sad. Help us to know that you are with us at all times. Amen.

Weekend Masses in the Parishes

Saturday	6pm	Holy Rosary, Greystones
	7pm	St. Joseph's, Newtown
	8pm	Oratory, Newcastle
Sunday	8.30am	St. Joseph's, Newtown
	9.30am	Carmelite Monastery, Delgany
	10am	St. Kilian, Blacklion
	10:30am	St. Anthony's, Kilcoole
	11am	Holy Rosary, Greystones
	11:30am	St. Joseph's, Newtown
	12:00pm	St. Patrick's, Kilquade
	12:15pm	Holy Rosary, Greystones
	6.30pm	St. Anthony's, Kilcoole