

Stage 3: Receive - First Reconciliation and First Communion Preparation Programme

School Involvement

Much of the preparation work with your child for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion is carried out through the school. However, the parish and home also have important roles to play in helping our children to grow in understanding of what is taking place.

Home Involvement

We encourage you, over the next weeks to:

- Take on the baking activity within your family. Share the results of this activity with others in the community. In doing so, open up a conversation within your family about Holy Communion and involvement within the faith community.
- Take part in the ceremonies during Holy Week and Easter – See the parish website for details.
- Use the prayers your child is learning in school frequently to develop familiarity.
- Use the resource book 'Preparing for First Holy Communion' with your child.

The Baking Activity

As discussed at the meeting, this is not so much an activity to produce a cake at the end, rather it is an activity to help in your preparation for the celebration of an event in the life of your family.

Step 1: Read together the passage of scripture relating to Jesus' invitation to the disciples to prepare a space for their supper together.

Matthew 26:17-19

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus to say, 'where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the passover?'

He replied: 'Go to so-and-so in the city and say to him, 'The Master says: My time is near. It is at your house that I am keeping Passover with my disciples.'"

The disciples did what Jesus told them and prepared the Passover.

Discuss the steps involved in preparing for an event.

Put a plan in place to carry out the bake, including choosing a recipe, assembling the ingredients, preparing it together, sharing it with others.

Step 2: Carry out the activity and capture moments of it.

Step 3: Read together the passage of Scripture relating to the Last Supper:

Scripture: Luke 22: 14-20 and John 13:4-15

When the hour came, he took his place at table with the apostles. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer, for, I tell you, I shall not eat it [again] until there is fulfillment in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and said, "Take this and share it among yourselves; for I tell you from this time on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you; do this in memory of me."

Then he got up from table, removed his outer garment and, taking a towel, wrapped it round his waist; he then poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel he was wearing. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'At the moment you do not know what I am doing, but later you will understand.' 'Never!' said Peter 'You shall never wash my feet.' Jesus replied, 'If I do not wash you, you can have nothing in common with me.' 'Then, Lord,' said Simon Peter 'not only my feet, but my hands and my head as well!'

When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garment again he went back to the table. 'Do you understand' he said 'what I have done to you? You call me Master and Lord, and rightly; so I am. If I, then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you.'

Step 4: Upload your pictures and comments on the activity to the Tumblr account in order to share this with others in the community. <https://greystonesandkilquadeparish.tumblr.com/submit>

Where can I find information? All of the information, dates, resources etc., are available on the parish websites: www.greystonesparish.ie and www.kilquadeparish.ie