

Holy Family N.S. - Tubbercurry – Co. Sligo



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Dear Parents,

We have all been anticipating the celebration of First Communion for a long time now. It has not been possible to make arrangements before now as it was necessary to deal with the safe reopening of the church first so that we could then see how we could best facilitate the celebration of the sacraments. A cohort of parish volunteers have been trained and rostered for stewarding and cleaning each week, without whom we could not open and on whom we continue to depend on for the foreseeable future.

We are delighted to be able to announce a provisional date for the celebration of First Holy Communion. The children will be split in 2 groups.

Mass for group 1 will take place at 11am on Saturday October 10th.

Mass for group 2 will take place on Saturday October 10th at 1.30 pm.

Please note that cancellation may be necessary if the COVID restrictions change or if the church is obliged to close for any reason. However, we hope that will not occur.

Many of our experiences: shopping, leisure, holidays, etc. have all been reshaped to ensure the safeguarding of the health of all while the COVID-19 infection continues to persist. It also impacts on the shape of celebrations in the church and consequent restrictions. We are obliged to observe the restrictions as they apply to us.

A maximum of **50 people** are permitted in the church for all celebrations. We must, therefore, organise the celebrations of First Holy Communion accordingly and within the guidelines, hence the need for two celebrations to accommodate the First Communion Class in Tubbercurry N.S.

Please note the following for the safe celebration of First Holy Communion adhering to the recommended guidelines **at present**:

- Each Family limited to **First Communion Child plus 4 others, (2 parents + 2 others).**
- Everybody including First Communicants will receive in the **hand only.**
- In keeping with best practice to avoid the spread of Covid-19, everybody will remain **seated throughout the ceremony**, no kneeling or standing.
- Due to restricted movements in church, you are asked to take photographs **from your seat only.**
- **Unfortunately, class photograph cannot be taken at this time.**
- Stewards will show you to your seats, please follow stewards' instructions.
- Please use the hand sanitiser as you enter and exit the church.

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Social distancing will be practiced by all in attendance at the ceremonies. The parish stewards will guide you throughout the ceremony.

- **There are no toilet facilities available in the church currently.**
- **Adults are encouraged to wear masks in the church, as in all enclosed spaces.**
- **We encourage you to exit as soon as possible after the ceremony to reduce the time in enclosed space and to facilitate sanitisation of the church.**

Looking forward to celebrating First Holy Communion 2020

Every blessing on you and your family,

Fr. Peter Gallagher.

Child's name: _____

Group: _____