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Tuesday 10th November 2020

Dear parents/carers,

RE: Sacraments: First Confession and First Holy Communion

As you are aware our Sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion were cancelled in September due to increased government restrictions relating the group gatherings as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. Although we are currently within a four-week national lockdown, it is anticipated that this will end in early December and local restrictions will be adhered to. Following detailed discussions with our new Parish Priest, Fr. Marc Lyden-Smith, I am proposing to reschedule both of these Sacraments before the end of the Autumn term.

As you are aware, St. Mary Magdalen's church had recently re-opened, following COVID-19 safety measures being put in place, and will be able to operate following the national lockdown period.

**This is the current situation, however, this could be subject to change dependent on national circumstances. The school must adhere to government guidelines regarding COVID-19. School will notify you of any changes should they be necessary.*

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The children will make their Sacrament of Reconciliation in school on the afternoon of **Tuesday 17th November**. Due to ongoing social distancing requirements, parents and family members will not attend this service. However, the children will spend quality time with their peers in reflective prayer.

Sacrament of Eucharist (First Holy Communion)

The children will make their First Holy Communion at St Mary Magdalen's church on **Saturday 12th December**. To adhere to social distancing requirements only family members (two adults and siblings) are welcome to attend and share this special occasion with the children. There will be an opportunity to take photographs and the children will receive a certificate and special gift to take home with them to remember their special day. The service will be prepared following government and Diocesan safety guidelines with the following being observed:

- Seating will be arranged to ensure appropriate distancing is observed



- Music will be played to replace the singing of hymns
- Readings will be carried out by adults.
- Fr Marc will wear gloves and the ciborium will remain covered.

Parent Sessions – Preparing for the Sacraments

As you know, a number of Sacramental preparation sessions were held for parents before school closed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Any outstanding supporting material will be forwarded to parents so that you are able to spend time with your child to talk about the importance of the Sacraments and their integral part in school and parish life.

I appreciate that, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 situation, these arrangements are different from previous years. However, it is important that our children have the opportunity to make their Sacraments and I am confident that both occasions will be very special and memorable for our children and their families.

Yours sincerely,

C. Wilkinson

Mrs. C. Wilkinson (Sacramental Co-ordinator)