

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC PARISH

St. Mary's, Barnstaple & St. Joseph's, South Molton

The Presbytery, Higher Church Street, Barnstaple, Devon. EX32 8JE

Tel: (01271) 343312 Email: barnstaple@predtr.org.uk

June 2026

Dear Parents,

Re: Preparation Classes for First Holy Communion 2027

It is now time to let us know if you would like your child to make his/her First Holy Communion in 2027. For your child to be eligible then he/she needs to be in Year 4 or above at school when they return to school this autumn (2026). A date for the start of classes has not yet been confirmed but will be sometime in the autumn this year. The First Holy Communion Mass will take place in either May or June 2027. Please complete an application form and return it to me as soon as possible.

If you would like your child to make his/her First Communion next year, then we ask you to make a commitment to ensuring that he/she is properly prepared. Although myself, as the parish priest, and the catechists will do all we can in preparing your child, only with your support in this can your child be properly prepared for the day of his/her First Communion. You are, as the Rite of Baptism puts it, the "first teachers ... in the ways of faith". Your support, encouragement and example to your child in his/her faith journey is extremely important.

For a child to be properly prepared means that they have to attend the preparation classes so that they will have a good understanding of their faith and what it means to receive Holy Communion. However, it also means that they are properly spiritually prepared by having a good understanding of the Mass which comes only from a regular experience of celebrating the Mass. Your child will be given a "Mass Attendance Achievement Record" card to be signed by the priest or catechist at any Mass they attend. This will be needed to be handed back prior to the First Communion Mass.

In the past few years, the preparation classes have been on a Thursday at 5pm but, for various practical reasons, I am looking at moving these classes to after the 9.30am Mass on a Sunday. I will make a decision about this once I know how many children we need to prepare for First Communion and after I have had a chance to speak to parents and discussed this with the catechists who run the classes.

Every Blessing,



Canon Peter Morgan
Parish Priest

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC PARISH

St. Mary's, Barnstaple & St. Joseph's, South Molton

The Presbytery, Higher Church Street, Barnstaple, Devon. EX32 8JE

Tel: (01271) 343312 Email: barnstaple@predtr.org.uk

First Holy Communion Application Form

If you fill this out by hand, please use **BLOCK CAPITALS** throughout, thank you.

Child's name	
Address	
Date of Birth	
School Year in September 2026	
Date of Baptism	
Place of Baptism <i>(Please provide a copy of the baptism certificate if not at St Mary's)</i>	
Church regularly attended	
Parents' Names	
Home Telephone Number	
Mobile Number(s)	
Email Address(es)	

Please return to the Parish Office

Data Protection:

Please note that the details you provide will be kept by the parish and will be used for parish use only and will not be shared or passed on.