

St Thomas More Sacramental Programme, 2017-18



What is it?

The Salford Diocese Sacramental Programme runs in our Parish for children, from Yr3 and above, to help assist you, as parents, to prepare your children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession), Eucharist (First Holy Communion), and later Confirmation (this will be in High School).

These are called the 'Sacraments of Initiation' and they are the ways that God has given us to become full members of the Roman Catholic Church.

What's it like?

... a positive experience... a chance to grow in faith... a gentle approach...



Your Responsibilities.

When you brought your child for Baptism into the Roman Catholic the Priest asked you, as parents, this question;-

" You have asked to have your child baptised. In doing so you have accepted the responsibility of training your child in the practice of their faith. It will be your duty to bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?"

'Yes, I do.'

YOUR answer, "Yes, I do" to this question was your promise before God, and his Church, that you accepted this wider role as parents. As well as being the first teachers of children in all the ordinary ways of life, parents of our Catholic children also accept that they are the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith.

So, it is the responsibility and privilege of you, as parents to bring your child to the Sacraments.

Formal Programme Timetable

- Formal enrolment in the Sacramental Programme, which is celebrated together at the Presentation Mass (November, Feast of Christ the King).
 - Sacrament of Reconciliation (Advent).
 - First Holy Communion (May).
 - 'Forward in Faith' Celebration (June).
- (See your programme dates letter for all dates!)

Our Parish Commitment to your children and to you...

Just as parents don't try to teach children everything themselves, so in terms of faith, there are others to help and support your child and, of course you.

The Parish Catechist Team are here to help...

They are...

- **Volunteers;** - parents, parish members, teachers, many familiar to the children either through school, or as leaders of the Sunday Children's Liturgy, people who have had experience of the Sacramental Programme as parents, themselves and friends.
- **This Committed Team** work closely with Fr Peter to provide the best environment for your children to grow in their understanding of the faith and how to live it.
- **But without your support and commitment - it won't happen!**

School Support

The Sacramental Programme is fully supported by the school, (but is not school based or run).

- Curriculum Religious Education includes teaching about the Sacraments.
- 'Retreat Days' are arranged with the Marist Sisters to support the children and give them reflective experiences around the sacraments.
- BUT - School can't do everything!

What you need to do.

- Bring your child to Holy Mass.
- Ensure that your child attends all Sacramental Programme Masses and Key Events.
- Ensure that your child attends all Sacramental Programme Preparation Meetings with their Catechists (there are only 4!!!)
- Attend Parents' meetings, as arranged.
- Inform Fr Peter and Mrs Weekes of any unavoidable absences!

Regrettably...

... if sessions with Catechists are not attended consistently or Key Celebrations leading up to Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are missed then, we may have to ask parents to defer, and join the Sacramental Programme at a later date, when they feel able to commit, as their child would simply not be ready to receive the Sacraments.

Thank you!

Thank you for your time and patience this evening and for the support, in faith, you give to your children and to us.

We want to make this Sacramental Year positive, memorable and special for your child and your family.

Please do not hesitate to ask if you need any further information or help at any time during the programme.

Mrs Weekes - Sacramental Programme Coordinator for St Thomas More.