



FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2025

SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Preparation Activity	Who Attends
Monday 4 November	7pm – Group 1 8pm – Group 2	Parents Meeting 1	Parent
Saturday 9 November	3:30pm to 5pm	Session 1	Parent & Child
Saturday 23 November	3:30pm to 5pm	Session 2	Parent & Child
Saturday 7 December	3:30pm to 5pm	Session 3	Parent & Child
Sunday 15 December	9am	Children's Mass	Parent & Child
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS			
Saturday 11 January	3:30pm to 5pm	Session 4	Parent & Child
Monday 20 January	7pm – Group 1 8pm – Group 2	Parents Meeting 2	Parent
Saturday 25 January	3:30pm	FIRST RECONCILIATION	Parent & Child
Saturday 8 February	3:30pm to 5pm	Session 5	Parent & Child
Sunday 9 February	9am	Children's Mass	Parent & Child
HALF TERM BREAK			
Saturday 8 March	3:30pm to 5pm	Session 6	Parent & Child
Saturday 22 March	3:30pm to 5pm	Session 7	Parent & Child
Sunday 30 March	9am	Children's Mass	Parent & Child
EASTER HOLIDAYS			
Saturday 26 April	3:30pm to 5pm	Session 8	Parent & Child
Saturday 10 May	3:30pm to 5pm	Session 9	Parent & Child
Sunday 18 May	9am	Children's Mass	Parent & Child
Monday 19 May	7pm – Group 1 8pm – Group 2	Parents Meeting 3	Parent
HALF TERM BREAK			
Thursday 5 June	4:30pm to 5:45pm	<u>Group 1</u> Rehearsal 1	Child
Friday 6 June	4:30pm to 5:45pm	<u>Group 1</u> Rehearsal 2	Child
Saturday 7 June	10am	<u>GROUP 1</u> FIRST HOLY COMMUNION	Child & Family & Guests
Thursday 12 June	4:30pm to 5:45pm	<u>Group 2</u> Rehearsal 1	Child
Friday 13 June	4:30pm to 5:45pm	<u>Group 2</u> Rehearsal 2	Child
Saturday 14 June	10am	<u>GROUP 2</u> FIRST HOLY COMMUNION	Child & Family & Guests
Saturday 21 June	3:30pm to 5pm	Session 10	Parent & Child
Sunday 22 June	9am	Family Mass & Corpus Christi Procession <i>followed by</i> Celebration & Certificates	Parent & Child

All preparation activities take place in **St Joseph's Church**, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 8RY.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

- Decide/discern if this is the right time for their child to receive the sacraments.
- Support their child in preparing for both sacraments and help them learn their prayers.
- Attend and participate in the Parents Meetings.
- Accompany their child to the Saturday Preparation Sessions, bring their child to the Children's Masses and take their child to Sunday Mass regularly.
- Ensure their child attends every session. If a child cannot attend a preparation activity for any reason (e.g. sick), the Communion Team should be notified.
- Arrive in good time for each session as well as any Services/Masses.
- Help the child to grow in faith through regular family prayer and by talking about the sacraments at home.

PREPARATION ACTIVITIES

Communicant Sessions

- There will be preparation sessions on Saturdays from 3:30pm to 5pm, per the schedule.
- The children will work through the chapters in the I Belong book which follows the framework of the Mass and includes illustrations/examples which reflect the world today where we live and experience our faith.
- The children will be taught familiar prayers as well as the responses to Holy Mass. They are expected to learn these "off by heart" (if they don't know them already) so that they can fully participate in church services and know what to say and do when it comes to their First Reconciliation Service and First Holy Communion Mass.
- Communicants will be expected to understand, to the best of their abilities, what they are about to receive – that the ordinary bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.

Parent Meetings

- Parent Meetings will take place on Monday evenings from 7pm to 7:45pm for Group 1 and from 8pm to 8:45pm for Group 2.
- The sessions will outline the content and practicalities of the programme and will include a short talk followed by group discussion and feedback.
- The sessions will allow parents to reflect on their own faith and equip them to guide and help their child.

Children's Mass

- Communicants will be required to attend the Children's Masses per the schedule. These joyful celebrations will be specifically tailored to suit the youngest members of our congregation and there will be a Children's Choir.
- Communicants are encouraged to participate in the Mass – music, reading, offertory, etc.
- Parents and children are invited to join parishioners for refreshments after Mass.

At Home

- Families are encouraged to pray together and to talk to each other about their faith.
- At the end of each I Belong chapter there is a "Family Time" page with suggestions for prayer and something to do together as a family.
- Practise...go over what has been taught in the session, in particular the prayers and responses so the children become familiar and confident saying them.