



FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2026

SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Preparation Activity	Who Attends
Communicants will be required to <u>attend Sunday Mass regularly</u> throughout the programme.			
In October/November	Own Time @ Home	I Belong – Chapter 1	Parent & Child
Saturday 8 November	3:30pm to 5pm	Parent Session 1 Session 1	Parent & Child
Saturday 22 November	3:30pm to 5pm	Session 2	Parent & Child
Monday 24 November	7pm – Group 1 8pm – Group 2	Parents Meeting	Parent
Saturday 6 December	3:30pm	FIRST RECONCILIATION	Parent & Child
In December/January	Own Time @ Home	I Belong – Chapter 5	Parent & Child
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS			
Saturday 10 January	3:30pm to 5pm	Parent Session 2 Session 3	Parent & Child
Saturday 24 January	3:30pm to 5pm	Session 4	Parent & Child
Saturday 7 February	3:30pm to 5pm	Session 5	Parent & Child
HALF TERM BREAK			
Saturday 7 March	3:30pm to 5pm	Parent Session 3 Session 6	Parent & Child
Saturday 21 March	3:30pm to 5pm	SECOND RECONCILIATION	Parent & Child
Monday 23 March	7pm – Group 1 8pm – Group 2	Parents Meeting	Parent
EASTER HOLIDAYS			
Saturday 25 April	3:30pm to 5pm	Parent Session 4 Session 7	Parent & Child
Thursday 30 April	4:15pm to 5:30pm 5:45pm to 6:30pm	<u>Group 1</u> Rehearsal 1 <u>Group 2</u> Rehearsal 1	Child
Friday 1 May	4:15pm to 5:30pm 5:45pm to 6:30pm	<u>Group 1</u> Rehearsal 2 <u>Group 2</u> Rehearsal 2	Child
Saturday 2 May	11am 2pm	<u>GROUP 1</u> FIRST HOLY COMMUNION <u>GROUP 2</u> FIRST HOLY COMMUNION	Child & Family & Guests
Saturday 9 May	3:30pm to 5pm	Session 8 <i>followed by</i> Presentation of 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.
- Take their child to Sunday Mass regularly – show them what to do during Mass and help them learn and say the Mass responses.
- Accompany their child to the Saturday Preparation Sessions.
- Attend the Parents Meetings and participate in the Parent Sessions.
- 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 Sessions/Meetings

- Parent Sessions will take place on Saturdays from 3:30pm to 5pm, per the schedule. These will comprise short talks 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 throughout the programme as well as in the months and years ahead.
- 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, per the schedule. These will outline the format of the liturgy, provide guidance on the practicalities and address any queries ahead of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

At Church

- Communicants will be required to attend Sunday Mass regularly. We are fortunate in our parish to offer a choice of six Sunday Masses ([see the parish website for details](#)) which can fit in with most circumstances. There is no need to change your current ‘regular’ Mass.
- Our Family Mass is 9am Sunday. These joyful celebrations accommodate the youngest members of our congregation with Children’s Liturgy and a Children’s Choir. Parents and children are invited to join the refreshments and social activities 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.