

St. Francis of Assisi Primary School



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10th September 2020

Dear Primary 5 Parent/Carer,

As you are aware, before lockdown your child had been preparing for the Sacrament of First Penance (First Confession). This will now take place next Friday 18th September at 11am in St Patrick's Church, Keady.

It is not necessary for parents/carers to attend as the children will walk to the chapel from school, will remain in their 'bubble' during the ceremony and will return to school together in time for dinners.

Early next week we will visit the chapel to help familiarise the children with the confessional box and give them an opportunity to practise their prayers and readings.

Each child has completed a series of pictures in their little booklet and should now keep this copy of their booklet at home to practise their prayers every night. If they wish they may take this booklet into the confessional however, it is very important that each child is able to either recite or read the prayers and talk about their choices of times 'when they did not show love'. There are no doors on the confessional box so children should feel at ease when speaking on a one to one with Fr Aidan.

The teacher will take the original booklets to the chapel on the day of First Confession. Children have been practising 'The Act of Sorrow' and before confessions are heard they will recite this prayer together when asking God to forgive their 'bad choices'.

First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 26th September at 1:30pm. We very much look forward to celebrating this special day with you and your family. Pupils should arrive at the chapel no later than 1:15pm. There will be seats reserved for each family in the centre aisle. The parish have asked that attendance at this ceremony is limited to invited guests only which may include the communicants themselves, their parents/carers and siblings. The parish guidelines ask that all adults wear face masks while in the chapel, however this is optional for young children. Unfortunately, due to current restrictions we are unable to invite families back to the school for refreshments this year however the good news is this will not stop us having a class party in school that next week!

Kind Regards

Feena Hughes
Principal

