

The Parishes of St. Mark's Springfield / St. Aidan's, Brookfield / St. Thomas the Apostle, Jobstown

St. Mark's Church, Maplewood Road,
Springfield, Tallaght, Dublin 24
Tel: (01) 462 0777

St. Aidan's Church, Brookfield Road
Tallaght, Dublin 24
Tel: (01) 4523595

St. Thomas the Apostle Church
Jobstown, Dublin 24
Tel: (01) 4523595

Church of the Incarnation, Kilcarrig
Avenue, Fettercairn, Dublin 24
Tel: (01) 4620777

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

We pray you and your family are finding a way through these difficult days. You may know that our parish team operates across three parishes with four churches and works with twelve primary schools in our gathering of parishes. We are exceptionally grateful to our school communities (especially our principals) who have co-operated so generously with us in putting this schedule of First Holy Communion Masses together.

Thank you and your children for your great patience in dealing with previous postponements of our First Holy Communion Masses. We are making PROVISIONAL plans to celebrate the Sacraments during December. **If churches are not permitted to open by 7th December ALL ceremonies will be postponed until the new year.** Please ensure your children are clear on the conditional nature of those arrangements to minimise any potential disappointment if we have to postpone ceremonies again.

PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES ARE COMPLETELY PROVISIONAL and dependent on the following:

Government restrictions on the celebration of public Mass / worship being lifted during December.

Public Mass / worship being permitted with at least 50 people present.

Priests are not sick or subject to self-isolation.

Any class that is subject to self-isolation will have their ceremony postponed until a later date.

Remember these dates are completely provisional. If new Government guidelines do not allow for public worship with at least 50 people none of the ceremonies will go ahead at this time.

However, in the hope that we may be able to proceed, please observe strictly the following information:

- Strictly only two adults will be permitted with each child. Each 'pod' of three must arrive together. Parent(s) / guardian(s) and child will be guided to seat where they will remain together for the Mass. Please be seated at least fifteen minutes before Mass begins.
- There will be no mixing of 'pods' before or after Mass.
- First Holy Communion Masses will be celebrated for each school on a class by class basis. Dates and times for Masses are allocated on the basis of the children's CURRENT class group (3rd class – Teacher's name).
- Please check carefully for the time / date / church of your child's Mass.
- We are not in a position to change / swap dates or times of any child's allocated Mass.

We are conscious that many children's First Holy Communion clothes / dresses may not fit so well. **PLEASE** do not go to further expense. Very simple, neat clothing is all that is required. Jesus has no interest in what the children wear. He is only interested in touching their mind, heart and soul with his presence.

You might like to check out our 'Godly Play' preparation for Christmas with your children. It will be streamed live on our parishes Facebook page 'Springfield, Brookfield and Jobstown' each Tuesday from 12 – 12.30pm or you can check out the recording at another time.

We look forward to celebrating this beautiful occasion with you and your children in the coming weeks. Please God, for all of us, it will be a beautiful faith celebration of light in the darkness.

Yours sincerely,

Fr. Pat McKinley

(Moderator-Springfield, Belgard, Fettercairn, Brookfield, Jobstown)

On behalf of the parish team

P.S. – if you go to the I-Catholic website and select ‘Sacraments’ from the menu, you will find three useful videos to help your children prepare to receive Jesus in Holy Communion.