



ST. GABRIEL'S NOTES

8th August 2021



Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation

The following is a summary of the letter issued by Archbishop Dermot Farrell regarding the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We are continuing to offer First Holy Communion to the children who were disappointed in 2020, individually or in groups up to four children, at any weekday or weekend Mass. If you want to enquire about booking a time please contact the parish office on 8333602 ./ info@stgabrielsparish.ie.



The celebration of the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation has been a matter of concern for parish and the many families affected.

It is appropriate and indeed necessary that public worship should take place in a way that prioritises the health and welfare of all, not least the candidates for sacraments and their families. State restrictions on public worship are justified for as long as they are prudent and necessary. Many are perplexed that current guidelines restrict the celebration of sacraments on the grounds that they may lead to family gatherings which could breach public health guidelines. No such prohibition applies to other events, sporting or civic, family celebrations or indeed weddings or funerals.

Where parishes are considering holding such celebrations, it is important that public health advise and protocols regarding public worship, are strictly complied with, not least with regard to gatherings in church grounds before and after ceremonies. The format of such ceremonies should be adapted appropriately, with shorter, simpler and smaller ceremonies, which nonetheless are reverent and joyous.

Some parishes have continued the practice of permitting small numbers to receive their First Holy Communion in the course of the regular schedule of weekday or weekend Masses. If you consider it safe to celebrate the Sacraments in this context, it would be prudent to ensure that families confirm their awareness of public health guidelines regarding household mixing.

With every good wish, Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin.

Families Walking Together In Hope

The 'Walking Together in Hope' initiative will be launched on **25 August 2021** at **Saint Mary's Pro-Cathedral**. The Archdiocese of Dublin will provide some simple and achievable ideas for families and parishes starting in September 2021. We want to encourage families to take part in various initiatives to support faith lived in the home and celebrated together in our parishes. Our goal is to celebrate moments of hope and joy in family life, with resources suitable for learning, living and leading faith that are complementary to the way family is lived today.

