



Headteacher: Mrs G. Gibbons
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Sacrament of Reconciliation

Dear Parents / Guardian,

Celebrating a sacrament is an important step in the life of your child as a Catholic Christian. Although, in this world, we live mystically between the fulness of God's Kingdom and the *awaiting of its coming in the day-to-day of our lives*, we believe and trust that, in the Sacraments, Christ acts fully and definitively in our lives.

As you will be aware, the Church recognises seven Sacraments: three are Sacraments of Initiation and Belonging (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist); two are of Healing (Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick); and two confer the Grace and Power of the Holy Spirit on those called to Matrimony, and to Holy Orders. Whilst we recognise these as the greatest and most clear gifts of God's Grace, which we celebrate through liturgy in which action and word are bound together, we receive God's Grace in many ways in our lives and, as Christians, we are called to be open to these gifts in all our daily activities as well as in our prayer.

Approximately 5 years ago, Bishop Marcus outlined an updated structure for children's sacramental preparation and family Catechesis as follows:

First Reconciliation – also known as First Confession, completed in Year 3 during Lent (Spring term).

First Holy Communion – completed in Year 4 during Easter tide (Summer term). Must have completed their First Reconciliation to receive this Sacrament.

Confirmation – completed in Year 6 during Autumn Term. Must have completed their First Reconciliation and Holy Communion to receive this Sacrament.

****Due to the pandemic, your child may be in Year 4+ and may not have completed their Sacrament of Reconciliation, but have the opportunity to receive the sacrament this year.***

The sessions for Reconciliation will be delivered by Mrs Gibbons, in the back of Church on a Saturday evening. The sessions will be delivered under the Bishops' outline of family Catechesis, which means that children will need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian for the session. Although this may be daunting for some, it is a wonderful opportunity for you to demonstrate and facilitate discussions about our faith with your child. More information to follow regarding the sessions.

The formal preparation for First Reconciliation, marks the next steps in your child's Sacramental journey. The weeks preparing for First Reconciliation leads to many years of discussions as your child continues to grow and learn from God, from you, and from the Church community. If you would like to enrol your child into the Sacrament, please complete the attached slip and return to school by Friday 12th January.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs G. Gibbons
Headteacher

Together in truth and faith we learn and grow as God's family

St Francis Catholic Primary School



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Please return to School by Friday 12th January 2024

I wish to enrol my child _____ who is in year _____ to make their First Reconciliation.

My Child has been baptised: Yes / No *Please delete as appropriate.

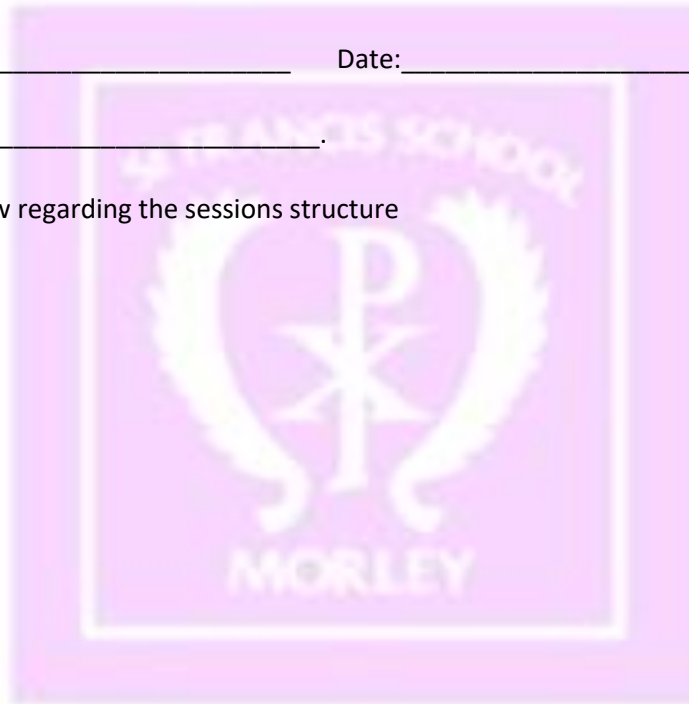
My Child was baptised at: _____ (please provide the church name).

Our family Parish is: _____ (please provide the church or parish name).

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Print name: _____

*More information to follow regarding the sessions structure



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