







## St Monica's Catholic Primary School

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 [stmonicascatholicprimaryschool.co.uk](http://stmonicascatholicprimaryschool.co.uk)

Tuesday 6th January, 2026

### Dear Parents / Legal Guardians,

As your child is now in Year 4, this is the year when they are eligible to receive their First Holy Communion and Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). This letter is from Father Ged, and will give you more information about these Sacraments and how they will be delivered to those who choose to receive them.

It is important to note that these Sacraments are only available for children who are already Baptised Catholics. If your child is not yet Baptised and wishes to be Baptised and receive Holy Communion and Confession this year, please contact Father Ged as soon as possible. Contact details are below.

### Preparation Programme

This year, we will follow a programme that prepares and supports children for their First Holy Communion and Reconciliation. There will be **four Child Sessions during school hours**, for children taking the Sacraments only. Children not taking the Sacraments will follow the usual school curriculum.

**Most importantly, children are also required to attend weekly Mass, either Saturday at 4:30pm or Sunday at 9:30am**, as part of their preparation.

### Why attending Mass is so important

Mass is where children meet Jesus in a personal and real way. It is not a lesson or an activity, but a sacred time to pray, reflect, and give thanks. Regular attendance helps children understand what it means to receive Holy Communion and to grow in faith. Without attending Mass, children cannot fully prepare for this special Sacrament.

**We ask that children attend either Saturday 4.30pm or Sunday 9:30am Mass each week as part of their preparation.**

Mass is also where we come together as a parish family and spend time with God, who made us and loves us. It is a chance to pause, thank God, and reflect on the blessings in our lives. For children preparing for First Holy Communion, regular

attendance helps them feel connected, comfortable and familiar with what is happening. Over time, Mass becomes a meaningful and comforting part of their lives.

Receiving Holy Communion is a deeply special moment. It brings us closer to Jesus in a personal way and helps shape our hearts to care more for God and for others. When we make room for God in our lives, He can surprise us with quiet strength, comfort, and hope through the Mass.

### **Initial Family Meeting - Monday 19th January**

There will be an **initial meeting on Monday 19th January at 2:45pm** in **St Monica's School led by Father Ged** to explain all that is required for your child to receive their First Holy Communion in 2026. Please enter through the Office entrance. Once this is complete, you will be able to collect your children as usual at 3:15pm. If you are unable to attend this meeting, it will be repeated at 6:30pm the same evening in St Monica's Church. The meeting will last about 30 minutes and include all key information, including dates.

### **Registration Forms**

**Registration forms will be given out at this meeting.** Please read them carefully. Complete and sign the form only if your child wishes to participate and you can support them in both the preparation sessions and attending weekly Mass. If your child does not want to make their First Holy Communion, please do not force them.

Completed forms must be returned to **Fr Ged at St. Monica's Presbytery**, please do not hand them to school staff, **no later than Friday 30th January 2026.**

### **Contact Details**

If you have any questions or concerns about the First Holy Communion preparation, please contact Fr Ged at:

**Tel:** 0151 922 4819

**Email:** [stmonica.bootle@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:stmonica.bootle@rcaol.org.uk)

**Parish Office Hours:** Tuesday–Friday, 11:00am–1:45 pm

**Every blessing,  
Father Ged**

**Mr Gouldbourne, Miss McGiveron, Mrs Ware and Miss Thomas**