

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE



✠ *Rt Rev Séamus Cunningham*
Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle



Dear Parent

I am delighted that you are now presenting your child for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. This is a major part in the life of a Catholic and is part of the promise you made when you brought your child for Baptism.

Though no one can replace your role in preparing your child for this special moment, you are not alone in this task. The parish and school will always be ready to help and support.

Our Catholic school in its Religious Education lessons will teach your child about Jesus, the Church, the Sacraments and especially about Reconciliation and Holy Communion. At school the children pray together each day and learn more about what it means to belong to the family of the Catholic Church. Please take an active interest in what your child is learning and do your best to pray with them whenever you can.

Your parish will prepare the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the First Holy Communion celebration, and parishioners will provide you and your family, along with other families, opportunities to participate in its life and to get to know your fellow parishioners better. Please play your part in taking an active interest in what your parish is offering.

You will know that your child is ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation when in their own way they:

- know that God loves them and is always ready to forgive no matter what;
- know and understand what is meant by sin;
- are able to reflect on their own behaviour;
- they want to express sorrow and to make amends;
- and appreciate the place and importance of Reconciliation.

You will know that your child is ready to make their First Communion when in their own way they:

- know about Jesus, they pray to him and want to receive Communion with him and his church;
- show reverence and respect;
- know the difference between Holy Communion and ordinary food;
- be attentive and aware of what is happening during Mass;
- have some sense of belonging to the parish family.

Please be assured of my support and prayers and those of your parish community as together we grow stronger in faith.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

✠ Rt Rev Séamus Cunningham
Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle

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