

St. Joseph's Primary School

1 Seafin Road

Killeavy, Newry

BT35 8LA

Principal: Mr Gary Trainor BEd (Hons) PQH NI

22nd April 2026

Dear First Communion Parent/Guardian

On Saturday 9th May we will mark that very important milestone in your child's faith journey when they will receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist in St. Joseph's Church, Meigh at 10.30am. This is a slightly earlier start (30mins) due to many of our staff attending the ordination of Deacon Jacek in Armagh Cathedral at 3pm.

To ensure the First Communion Ceremony is enjoyable for everyone, I would like to draw to your attention a few housekeeping notices.

- Pupils are to be in the church and seated by 10.20am sharp.
- Each family has been allocated one pew at which the communicant will sit closest to the aisle. **No more than six in total please including First Communicant.**
 - *Additional seating (approx 8 pews) behind reserved seats will be available on a first come basis*
- When receiving the Eucharist, only the child and their parents will proceed to the altar initially. Remaining family members/others will be able to receive the Eucharist after all the First Communicants.
- Please refrain from taking photographs/video during the mass – there will be an opportunity to take a class photo at the end.
- While the giving of money is 'traditional', this can sometimes overtake the focus of the celebration immediately afterwards so I would kindly ask you to refrain from this in the church/school environment.
- Everyone is invited back to the school after the ceremony for light refreshments, buns, biscuits etc. all kindly provided by our Primary 3 parents. Pupils will be able to collect their First Communion Project and have a slice of a delicious 'Shelbourne' First Communion Cake generously provided by Mary Connolly.

Preparation for First Communion is of the utmost priority at the moment so please be patient as regards 'normal homework'. Learning prayers/readings/responses etc is the key focus and we thank you for helping your child at home with these.

May I take this opportunity to offer my best wishes to you and your family on what is a most very special day. Thank you for your kind cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely

G Trainor



'Let Your Light Shine'

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