

12 Courtenay Hill, Newry, Co Down, BT34 2EA
Phone: (028) 3026 2175

Dear parents,

I write with some details re next Friday's sacramental ceremony.

1. Canon Brown has stated that each child's parents, siblings, sponsor and grandparents can attend if they so wish.

A seat will be allocated to each child which can accommodate 4 to 6 family members and the sponsor must sit beside the P7 child on that seat.

Should the number of people in the family group exceed this number, additional seating will be available at the sides of the church. These seats will not be allocated.

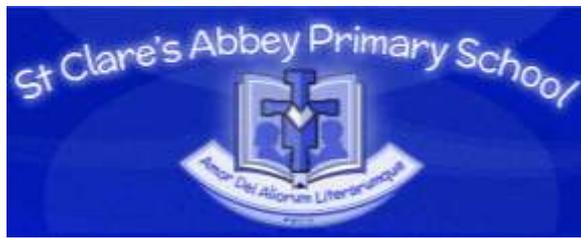
2. Pupils and their families are asked to arrive and be seated 15 minutes before their ceremony is due to start.

3. All adults are asked to wear a mask.

4. We have been practising the Mass responses with the children and everyone is very unsure of these. This is not surprising since the churches were closed for such a long time. Nonetheless we the staff are anxious about this as there will be very few people in the church and we NEED everyone to say the responses. As such we are putting a lot more into the mass booklet and we plead with all families to use these at the ceremony and participate themselves, whilst encouraging the children to speak out loudly. We will continue to practise, but we really need your support.

5. Families will be invited to receive Holy Communion at the very end of the Mass and will leave the church at that point, therefore it is important that all members of the family approach the altar together at that time.

6. As always parents are asked not to take photographs during the actual ceremony.



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7. Everyone is asked to socially distance whilst entering and exiting the church.

8. P7 pupils will finish school at 11.00 AM on Friday 23rd April.

This will be a very different confirmation ceremony for us all. It will be simple and there will be a small congregation, but each of those things will have the power to make it very special and meaningful. Please talk to your child and participate in his/ her preparation. We are working hard with them to explain how big a step they are taking in their 'Faith Journey.' Once they have received the gifts of the Holy Spirit and have been anointed with the Oil of Chrism, they are being invited into a more adult relationship with God, whereby they are actively choosing to be His follower. This is VERY difficult for them to understand, so please reinforce the message at home.

I look forward to the two ceremonies very much. It is a privilege to be involved.

Yours in partnership,

Mrs Monaghan.