

## Reconciliation and First Holy Communion at St Joseph's, Newton Abbot

*Continuing your journey as part of the Family of the Church*

For Parent's and guardians to think about.....

**1. Is your child ready?**

This has less to do with your child's age, and more to do with how aware they are of the faith family they are being brought up in. As a guideline, we usually suggest that those in Year 3 or rising 8 are probably ready but some may reach this stage earlier or may need a little more time.

**2. Do you/your family have a regular commitment to the church?**

During the preparation process, your child will be taught about their relationship with God, the Church and with our wider faith community. Therefore, they need to feel part of their Christian family and be familiar with, and regularly attend Sunday Mass.

**3. Are you ready?**

This is probably the largest commitment. The programme is spread over 6 months, involves parent sessions and a regular commitment to the meetings and to Mass.

### The Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion



All the important events in life need preparation and this is true for your child at this stage, so that there is understanding and support for them as they develop morally and spiritually.

At St. Joseph's, the programme is delivered by experienced and caring catechists but depends, for its success, on active cooperation between parents, catechists, priests and our whole parish family.

Parents are the first educators of their child and do this through daily habits, family customs, attitudes and examples. All these play a part in our preparation course so it is a true family journey.

### What does the course involve?

The course is devised by our catechists and tailored to the needs and level of the children who take part. It will involve a number of sessions spread over the coming months and parents will receive a programme of dates and times before the start.

[First Reconciliation will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 10:30](#)

[First Holy Communion will take place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 10:30](#)

It is important that you feel able to take part and contribute to the journey your child is taking. After each session they will be given an activity to complete at home with your help. This is an important time for chatting and sharing. There may also be one or two occasions when we ask the parents to meet with us briefly to allow for general sharing of information and practical arrangements as well as a chance to ask questions and share ideas.

We look forward to stepping alongside your children on this journey. It is a time of great celebration for you, your child and us all.