

DIOCESE OF  Salford  
SACRED HEART OF JESUS  
R.C. PARISH  
*Westhoughton*

SACRED HEART PRESBYTERY | 8 LORD STREET | WESTHOUGHTON | BOLTON | BL5 3SE | TEL: 01942 812174.

5<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

Dear Parent or Guardian,

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME**

As you aware, we live in unprecedented times, and the difficulties that the Covid-19 pandemic has caused are known and felt by us all. I'm writing to you to try and move forward and salvage something of your hope for your child to receive Holy Communion for the first time.

Because of the present restrictions, our church's seating capacity has been greatly reduced and we are now no longer able to accommodate, as originally intended, all the candidates in two special Masses. Therefore, I invite you to book a place at one of the weekend Masses (Saturday Vigil 6:00 p.m. or Sunday morning 10:00 a.m.) so that your child may make their First Holy Communion at that time. Despite limited seating, we do have a few '*family benches*' that will hold, allowing for space, no more than FOUR people, who must be part of the same household or '*social bubble*'. Those living in separate homes may not sit together. Sadly, this will restrict each candidate to a maximum of three guests each. I know this is disappointing and would not have been our hope, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic our hands are tied somewhat.

We are operating a first come first served rule, but I'm more than happy, if instructed by you, to reserve one of the benches, should you so wish to avail yourself of this invitation. The side door near to the Peace Garden, opens 20 minutes prior to Mass beginning. Once the Mass starts, no other visitors may enter the church. The stewards see to your hands being sanitised and then seat you in your place. Masks are mandatory, as is the 2m. social distancing rule. Also please be aware the toilets are NOT in use. Holy Communion is distributed at the end of Mass and then you leave the church by the other side door.

You can book your place by phone: 01942 812174 or email: [barry.lomax@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:barry.lomax@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

I look forward to hearing from you.

*Fr. Barry*

Rev. Fr. Barry Lomax

Reg'd Charity No 250037

