

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

ENROLLMENT FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

(if your child was not baptised at Our Lady's & the English Martyrs or St. Monica's, please include a copy of their baptism certificate.)

Please return this form to Fr. Kieren at "The Presbytery, 5 Roseneath Road, Urmston"

NAME OF CHILD:

D.O.B:

PRIMARY SCHOOL:

ALLERGIES OR SEND:

FATHERS NAME & RELIGION:

MOTHERS NAME & RELIGION:

ADDRESS:

CONTACT No.:

CONTACT Email:

PLACE OF BAPTISM & DATE OF BAPTISM:

I, _____ the parent/carer of _____, would like my child to participate in the Sacramental Programme and be prepared to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

I agree that I will continue to fulfil the promise that I freely and solemnly made at the baptism of my child, and will do all that I can "to bring them up in the practise of the faith" by attending Mass on Sunday.

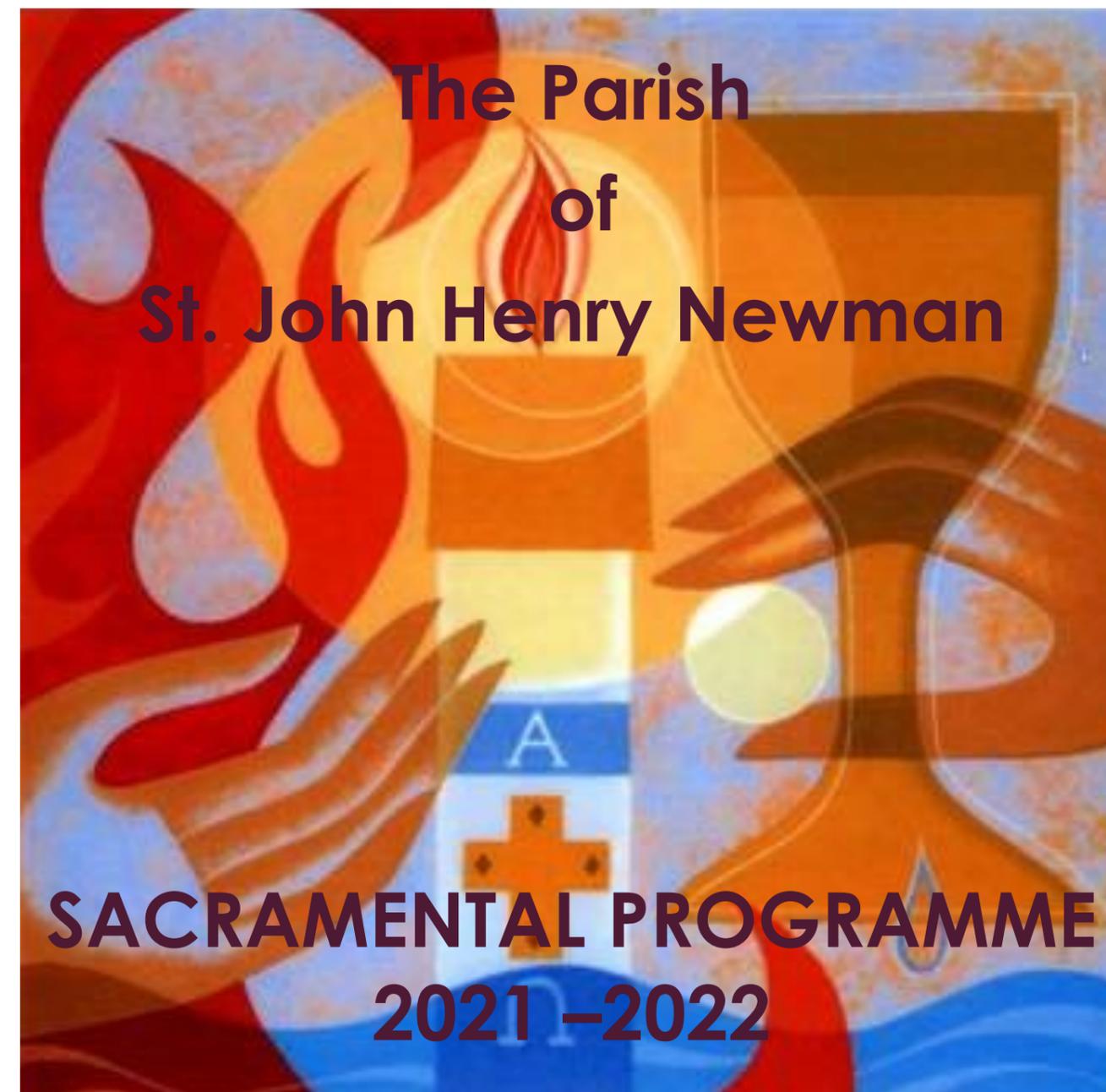
My child will attend all catechesis meetings and celebrations and we will strive as a family to attend every Sunday Mass.

I understand that Fr. Kieren and the Catechesis team have a duty and responsibility, under the direction of the Bishop of Salford to ensure that my child is ready to complete the programme and receive the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Therefore I accept that failure to fulfil all obligations of the programme may result in my child being asked to defer completion of the programme.

Furthermore, I give permission that images of my child may be used during the duration of the Programme. (all photographic images will be destroyed at the completion of the programme)

I enclose the sum of £10 for the provision of Programme Resources.

Signed:



*"Most Sacred, most loving Heart of Jesus, you are concealed in the Holy Eucharist, and you beat for us still.
Now, as then, you say: "With desire I have desired."
I worship you with all my best love and awe, with fervent affection, with my most subdued, most resolved will.
For a while you take up your abode within me.
O make my heart beat with your Heart!"*

St. John Henry Newman

Many years ago you chose to bring your child to the Church, the place where God's family comes together, and in that Church, through the sacrament of Baptism your child was "born again" to eternal life and became through the Grace of God a member of His holy family.

During Baptism, each of you made a solemn promise, before your family, but most importantly before God, to bring your child up in the practise of the faith which means you promised to show your child **WHAT** it means to be and **HOW** to be a Catholic.

It is important that you remember that God and His Church takes your promise seriously!

The Sacrament Programme builds upon the grace that God has freely given to your child through Baptism. The sacrament of Baptism welcomes us into God's family, and the Sacraments of the Eucharist (Holy Communion) and Reconciliation (Confession) help us to understand and become full members of God's wonderful family; the Catholic Church.

The programme is aimed at both you and your child and requires commitment.

It is deliberately aimed at you, because as a family, as the Church, we desire to equip you with the necessary tools to help you continue to bring your child up in the practise of the faith. The programme aims to help your child realise the importance of their Catholic faith, and how to live it and share it through the sacramental life of the Church.

Being a Catholic is not a part-time weekend commitment, it is a life long vocation, inviting us to holiness. It is not part of who we are, it is who we are - beloved children of God.

The sacraments keep us focused on that vocation we all share.

Therefore, it is important to remember that for Catholics, the sacraments are not optional extras to our faith, they are not boxes to tick, or rituals "to do", rather the sacraments are in fact the heart beat of our Catholic faith - we as Catholics are sacramental people - the sacraments are the means through which we as God's children and family celebrate together, and continue our call to holiness, as we meet and encounter God.

HOW CAN I HELP PREPARE MY CHILD?

Lets keep this really easy:

1. Come to Mass.
2. Come to Mass.
3. Come to Mass.
4. Teach them how to make the sign of the cross, how to genuflect (and to whom). Ensure that they can say the Our Father, Hail Mary and the Glory Be.

THE EUCHARIST - HOLY COMMUNION

It shouldn't surprise you when I state that attending Sunday Mass is not an option for any Catholic; it is an obligation and a privilege, because through the Mass we – God's chosen children, His adopted family through Baptism – come into the presence of the God who chose us, as His.

Not only do we come into His presence, but we in fact enter into communion with Him by receiving the Eucharist which is truly the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Therefore, in the Eucharist, Jesus (who is God) gives Himself to us as a real gift. As St. Alphonsus Liguori (look him up!) once said:

"Of all the sacraments, the adorable Sacrament of the Altar is the most excellent. The other sacraments contain gifts of God but the Holy Eucharist contain God Himself"

Your child's First Holy Communion represents an important event in his or her life. If you want great things for your child, you will want them to be united to the Eucharist (Christ) their whole life; for if they are united in communion to the Eucharist, they will truly do great things.

Because united with God great things become possible!

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eat this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." John 6: 48ff

RECONCILIATION - CONFESSION

Sadly, less people today come to this wonderful sacrament, this does not mean that people are sinning less, but that perhaps they no longer take their sins as seriously as they should. The classic definition of sin: *is that which separates us from God and each other*. Sin is real! To know this as true open a newspaper or watch the news! But sin is not something that somebody else commits, it is something that **WE** – no matter how hard it is sometimes to admit – commit. The sacrament of Reconciliation is not about dwelling upon sin but is rather focused upon releasing us from it. God through this sacrament loves us, liberates us, forgives us and invites us to truly live as we were and are created to.

Confession is important for all Catholics because through the sacrament we are freed and forgiven so that we may receive the Lord in the Eucharist.