

Every school year is special, but this year is extra special for your family, as your child will be making his/her First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion.

First Communion is considered one of the holiest and most important occasions in a Roman Catholic's life. It means that person has received the Sacrament of the Eucharist; the body and blood of Jesus Christ. At St. Anne's children receive their First Communion when they are seven or eight years of age, because this is considered the age of reason.

The children will make their first Reconciliation, or the Sacrament of Penance, before receiving their First Communion. At Reconciliation, the child will tell the priest the things that they have done wrong and that they are sorry for. The priest will give them a penance to do. The penance is usually a prayer to be said or maybe a good deed to perform. Once your child is absolved of sin, he/she is ready to receive First Holy Communion.



Holy Communion was not meant just for the Apostles; it was meant for all of Jesus' followers. At every mass Father Grace says the words of Jesus over the bread and wine and they become the Body and Blood of Jesus. We call this the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Whenever we receive it, Jesus comes into our hearts, alive and full of love.



Your child must be a baptised catholic before he/she can receive Communion for the first time and you will be required to show your child's baptism certificate as part of the enrolment process.

Do not worry if you have not attended mass for some time, what is important is that you wish your child to receive these Sacraments and that you are committed to supporting them throughout the year, as they develop their knowledge about the mass, Reconciliation and Communion.

During the year there will be a number of meetings and a retreat day for your child, to enable him/her to be fully prepared to receive these sacraments. It is important that your child attends these meetings, which will help them to explore their own beliefs and inform them about the Sacraments that they are about to receive.

*It is also expected that you bring your child to 9.30 am Sunday mass, the Sunday after a preparation session, to enable the children to embed the theory of these Sacraments within the context of mass.*

The children will be following the God's Greatest Gift programme. Parents/Carers will be expected to support and work with their child to complete parts of their workbooks at home. It is important that this is done before the next meeting in order to ensure that your child doesn't delay the programme for others. Your child will receive their books closer to the enrolment Mass.

School will be an important part of the preparation process. The children will learn about the Sacraments as part of 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' RE curriculum. The staff and children will pray for your child.

The Parishioners at St. Anne's are also an important part of your child's journey. Your Child will be formally introduced at the Enrolment mass at **9.30am on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023** and from then the parishioners will keep your child in their prayers

There will be a Parents' Meeting directly after this Mass at Church which will last no longer than 30 minutes to help you to understand the course that your child is enrolled on and enable you to be part of the practical planning of arrangements for the Sacraments.



***Please consider carefully your decision to enrol your child on the Sacramental programme. Your child doesn't have to take part just because they are eligible by age. These Sacraments need to mean something special to you and your child. If you don't feel that you can make the commitment to support your child throughout the programme and to enable your child to continue to receive these Sacraments regularly, then you shouldn't enrol them on the programme.***

***However, if you decide that you can make this commitment the Parish warmly looks forward to working with you and praying for you and your family during this exciting year.***

Please complete the following form if you would like to enrol your child in the programme.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?i d=4NsbwO8r9UiPqNCwxXR5so7stBvn3DIkL3w2EJ7Kz VUM0VYUkZTWIU4VINUN0NFVU1EOEJJVDY4Vy4u>

# A SPECIAL YEAR

## 2022-2023

### Dates for your diary

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup> January, 9.30 am** - Children to be enrolled on Sacramental Programme in Holy Mass in St. Anne's RC Church. Parent information given after Mass for approx. 30mins.

**Sat 4<sup>th</sup> February, 9.30 am - 11.30am** - Preparation for Reconciliation in St. Anne's Community Hub (on school site)

**Sun 5<sup>th</sup> February, 9.30am** - Children to attend Sunday Mass at St. Anne's.

**Sat 4<sup>th</sup> March, 10.00am – 2.00pm** - Retreat Day in Oblate Retreat Centre, Wistaston Hall - Preparation for Reconciliation

**Sun 5<sup>th</sup> March , 9.30am** – Children to attend Sunday Mass at St. Anne's.

**Tues 21<sup>st</sup> March at 6.30pm**- Sacrament of First Reconciliation in St. Anne's Church

**Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 9.30am – 11.30am** - First Holy Communion Preparation session in St. Anne's Community Hub (on school site)

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 9.30am** - Children to attend Sunday Mass at St. Anne's.

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> May, 9.30am – 11.30** – First Holy Communion preparation in St. Anne's Community Hub (on school site)

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup> May, 9.30am** – Children to attend Sunday Mass at St. Anne's

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am – 11.30am** – First Holy Communion preparation in St. Anne's Community Hub (on school site)

**Sun 21<sup>st</sup> May, 9.30am** - Children to attend Sunday Mass at St. Anne's

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 6.30pm** – First Holy Communion Rehearsal in Church

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 10am** - Sacrament of First Holy Communion Mass in Church



### The Parish Church of St. Anne's

#### Pillory Street, Nantwich

**Phone:** 01270 625 494

**Website:** [www.stannesnantwich.org.uk](http://www.stannesnantwich.org.uk)

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**School contact:** [office@stannes.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:office@stannes.cheshire.sch.uk)  
**Phone:** 01270 260783

**Headteacher:** Mrs N Ferguson

**Y3 Class teacher/ RE lead:** Mrs L James