

New Row Primary School
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First Communion Update: 3rd September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We are delighted to be able to finalize some more arrangements for First Communion on Saturday 19th September 2020 at 11am in St Patrick's Church, Castledawson

- This will be a very special occasion! It will be the first mass on St Patrick's Church since March.
- Children should be accompanied by 2 adults. Adults should wear masks throughout the ceremony but children do not.
- The seats will be allocated and spaced out in accordance with social distancing guidelines.
- Families are to be in their seat by 10.45am
- Danny Devlin & Jane McAleese are providing the music. The children will be helping in selecting the hymns.
- Readings and other prayers will be prepared and read by Fr Branigan and school staff.
- All children will have a booklet to follow on the day. They will have spent lots of time in school and at home practicing the different parts of the mass and will be very familiar with what to do and when.
- Moyola Photography will be in the church to take some photos during the ceremony. Madeleine will also be available at the end to take individual/family photos at the front of the altar. Social distancing at this time will be key, with one family at a time at the altar.
- A group photo on the day is not possible but we will take a class photo (in uniform) on the chapel steps on the day before (Fri 18th Sept) as a special memento of the occasion.
- We hope to be able to share the ceremony with those at home – either by Magherafelt Parish Facebook Live or recordings of key parts shared immediately afterwards via our website.
- Friends of New Row always mark this special occasion for our children and are keen to do the same this year by providing a little treat at the end of the ceremony.
- Sunday mass resumes the following week (Sun 27th Sept) at 9am and families are welcome to make arrangements to attend this – and subsequent weeks.

I know you understand that this is a parish approach. It only takes one positive result for a pupil, parent, family member or friend to reassure us that this was the correct way to manage a challenging situation.

Looking forward to what will be a lovely celebration. We are really working hard and thinking creatively of how we can engage the children in as many ways as possible for this very special day in their faith journey.

Many thanks for your continued support and understanding.

Miss O Gribbin (Y5 teacher).

Mrs D Graffin (Principal)