



ST MATTHEW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, NORTHWOOD

32 HALLOWELL ROAD, NORTHWOOD, HA6 1DW

'Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations...' [Matt 28:19]

UPDATED INFORMATION ABOUT SUNDAY SCHOOL AT ST MATTHEW'S

July 26th, 2020

Dear Parents and Sunday School children,

Greetings to you all as the new year begins. After a period of great uncertainty, I trust that the return to school this week has been as smooth as it can be? I know teachers have been keen to have children back in class again, and the sense of starting a new year well are very important.

This letter is to provide you with an update on our Sunday School plans here at St Matthews. Like so many parts of life these have been subject to alterations as we receive changes in advice, which have affected our planning in ways that are outside of our control.

At the beginning of the summer I wrote to you to say that there would be a parents' meeting for all Sunday School parents on Saturday 12th of September. After extended discussion with Eileen, I am sorry to say that this meeting can no longer go ahead as planned, for which I apologise. It is sadly also not possible for us to keep to the schedule that we had hoped for the restarting of classes. It is imperative that we focus our energies initially on families who are anticipating the celebrations of First Holy Communion and Confirmation that have been delayed. These programs will resume on **Monday 7th with a meeting for current 1st Holy Communion parents** before the **first class on Sunday 13th** and a **meeting of Confirmation Candidates & parents on Tuesday 15th September**.

Once we have re-started these programs, we will then be in a position to turn our attention to the general Sunday School. At this point we are not yet in a position to give comprehensive information about re-starting classes on a Sunday, not least because of the challenges posed by the operation of the hall for the numbers that we are used to. Restrictions on the use of our hall are still in place, and guidance has only been received today to assist parishes with planning catechetical and teaching sessions in a COVID-safe manner. It has become clear that we are unlikely to be able to quickly return to the precise model of Sunday School activities that we have been used to in the past.

I know that this may come as a disappointment to many, but I am asking again for your continued patience. Please keep an eye on the weekly parish newsletter for updates and addition information. It will still be my intention to meet with parents before we re-start, to discuss the model of teaching that we will adopt and how this will practically work. Our Sunday School is an important part of the life and history of St Matthew's, and we all look forward to being able to resume as soon as it is safe and practical to do so. Based on previous years, enrolment forms would have been issued and returned by now. With all the work that was necessary for the re-opening of our church safely this year the usual schedule did not apply. Any family who is concerned about applying or re-applying for Sunday School places in can be re-assured that deadlines have not been set or missed yet.

I hope that this information is helpful to you all. Please keep an eye out for further information about Sunday School in the parish newsletter as and when it becomes available. Thankyou for your continued patience and understanding. Please be assured of my continued prayers,

Fr Brian

REVISED TIMETABLE FOR RESTARTING:

1st Holy Communion Parents's Meeting	Monday 7th September 7:30 - In the Church
1st Holy Communion classes re-sume	Sunday 13th September at 10:10
1st Holy Communion celebrations	During 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th weekends of October
Confirmation: Joint meeting with parents and Candidates	Tuesday September 15th 7:00pm - In the Church
Confirmation celebrations	As soon as can be arranged in the Autumn, subject to further announcements
NEW CANDIDATES ENROLMENTS [for celebrations in 2021]	Further information to follow as soon as possible

CONTACT US

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Safeguarding

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APPOINTMENT OF NEW PARISH REP. CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS

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