

Telephone 07198 51295  
Mobile 087-2358222  
E-Mail [ofearrai@gmail.com](mailto:ofearrai@gmail.com)



Kilbarron House  
College Street  
Ballyshannon  
County Donegal F94 W282

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## FIRST PENANCE AND FIRST EUCHARIST 2023

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Now that your child is in second class, it is the opportune time for you as parents to make a decision to celebrate their First Penance and First Holy Communion with them as an important part of their ongoing faith journey.

The Celebration of these Sacraments will only be **life-giving in faith** if celebrated as a part of the faith journey of a child who is being formed by parents and family sharing their own living faith with them at home, which is the “*domestic church*”. Their journey began with their Baptism when you took on the responsibility of bringing up your child in faith and in the love of God and neighbour – praying with them at home and engaging regularly with our parish faith community. In the secular world of today many have to make a conscious and deliberate decision to be a part of this living faith community, while many opt not to do so. We must respect the decisions of those who opt not to do so, but urge them not to use these sacred sacramental moments merely as social occasions.

For parents who wish to have their child prepared for these sacraments, much of the work of preparation is done in school but the home and the parish have an important role to play in helping our children understand what it means to share in the Bread of Life for the first time. The most important preparation of your child for Holy Communion is yours as parents, praying with them at home, sharing your own faith with them and bringing them faithfully to Mass every Sunday. To help and support you with this responsibility, we will be using the Parish Programme “**Do this in Memory**” again this year. This programme helps our children and their families as they prepare for these Sacraments. It aims to help parents and parish become more actively involved in the sacramental preparation for First Penance and First Eucharist.

There will be an initial meeting for all parents of children preparing for these Sacraments this year on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in Kilbarron Pastoral Centre.**

Enrolment will be at **11am Mass on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September** in St Patrick’s Church.

If you are unable to attend for any reason we would ask you make contact with the Parish Office at **98-51295** beforehand. If we do not hear from you we will take it as an indication that you do not wish to present your child for these Sacraments.

This time of preparation for these Sacraments is an opportunity for us all to be renewed and nourished on our own faith journey. We look forward to seeing you on the night of the 20<sup>th</sup> September, and pray every Blessing for you and your family.

Sincerely yours,

Fr Cathal Ó Fearraí P.P.