

ENGLISH MARTYRS PARISH, TUFFLEY
ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY PARISH, MATSON
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023

Introductory Parents Meeting	Wednesday 23 rd November 2022 English Martyrs Hall at 7:30pm
Parents & Candidates (<i>Chapters 1 & 2</i>)	Saturday 10 th December 2022 English Martyrs, 10:00am to 12:15pm
Parents & Candidates (<i>Chapters 3 & 4</i>)	Saturday 14 th January 2023 English Martyrs, 10:00am to 12:15pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Saturday 21 st January 2023 English Martyrs, 10:45am to 11:45pm (TBC)
Parents & Candidates (<i>Chapters 5 & 6</i>)	Saturday 11 th February 2023 English Martyrs, 10:00am to 12:15pm
Retreat Day (<i>Chapters 7 & 8</i>)	Saturday 25 th March 2023 English Martyrs, 10:00am to 3:00pm
Parents & Candidates (<i>Chapters 9 & 10</i>)	Saturday 22 nd April 2023 English Martyrs, 10:00am to 12:15pm
First Holy Communion Rehearsal	Friday 5 th May 2023 English Martyrs, 5:00pm
First Holy Communion Mass	Saturday 6th May 2023 English Martyrs, 11:00am
First Holy Communion Rehearsal	Saturday 6 th May 2023 St. Augustine's, 5:00pm
First Holy Communion Mass	Sunday 7th May 2023 St. Augustine's, 11:00am
Parents & Candidates (<i>Chapter 11</i>)	Saturday 20 th May 2023 English Martyrs, 10:00am to 12:00pm

Notes

Arrangements for Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, 21st January 2023 may be subject to change depending on the number of candidates and availability of priests.

Candidates need to bring their book to every preparation session looking at chapters of the book.

Parents will have a meeting in the church while the candidates are in the hall.

*It is very important that the children go to Mass regularly
as well as participating in all the Saturday Sessions and Retreat Day*

Welcome to this wonderful journey with the Holy Spirit that we, together, are embarking on for greater grace in ourselves and our children (the future of Jesus' Church), and to give glory to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit for whom time is infinite existing at our beginning, now and eternally. A life that we too, due to the sacrifices of Jesus, can now embrace to support us through all the trials of this life, and lead us into everlasting joy in Heaven.'

Pope Francis is looking at ways to help parents to be more included in the Church and more supported in developing their child(ren's) faith journey, and acknowledges that Parents are the best, first and continuing teachers of their children in the ways of faith. A parent, as well as the candidate(s), is therefore expected to attend all sessions.

Throughout the recent pandemic we have found that we have been able to make more effective use of our limited catechetical resources by working together between our two parishes. We also recognise the demands on family time, particularly with modern working patterns that can extend well beyond a regular 9 to 5. Therefore, this year we have combined the preparation sessions for both parishes and run the parents' sessions alongside the children's sessions. We feel this will allow us to deliver the quality of preparation for yourselves and the candidates as they journey towards their First Holy Communion. The preparation sessions will all take place at English Martyrs but there will be a First Holy Communion Mass in both parishes.

Before each parents and candidates session there is a 10am Mass, which the parent(s) and candidate(s) are expected to attend. This is a very good way of understanding, and helping your child(ren) to understand, the most important part of Jesus' teaching and the life of His Church – the Liturgy of the Word, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

All meetings must be attended.

If you get stuck in working through the book with your child(ren) firstly check the answer is not in the parent's book. If not, please bring the concern to the next meeting. If it can't wait, please contact your lead catechist.

On weekends when there are no meetings you are encouraged to attend Sunday Mass.

Other parishes in the Gloucester Deanery run their preparation sessions at different times and days if Saturday is a problem. St. Peter's will probably be on Friday, Our Lady in Churchdown on Sunday, and St. Patrick's in Brockworth on Tuesday.