

Sacred Heart & St John the Evangelist Catholic Church
London Road, Bushey, Watford, Herts. WD23 1BA
Tel. 020 8950 2077 Email: andrearoe100@hotmail.com

November 2026

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

The time is here to enrol your child to receive the Sacrament of Initiation (Reconciliation and First Holy Communion) in 2027. This is an important time in your child's spiritual life, and that of your whole family.

The First Holy Communion program is organised by Andrea Hanbury who is the Parish Representative and will be leading the programme with the help and guidance of Fr Jim and Sr Karen.

As parents, you have the privilege and responsibility of being intimately involved in your child's preparation for the Sacraments. Yours is the first and most important role in Sacramental preparation for parents are first educators of children in the Faith. Parents have an awesome and serious duty and obligation to care for their children's souls, as well as bodies and minds.

We invite you to a meeting for Parents, Guardians and Carers (no children) on **Thursday 21st January 2027** in the Parish Church at **7.30pm**. It is important for parents to meet with Father Jim and Sister Karen before your child begins catechetical preparation.

The programme your children will follow is, *I Belong*, which will be supplemented with other materials and activities. Each child will receive his/her own beautifully colourful book to complete—and cherish in coming years—and each family will receive a *Parents' Guide* so you can follow along with your child. Catechists will receive a *Leader's Guide*. **To cover costs, each family is asked to donate £50 which needs to be returned with the application form by Friday 8th January 2027.** When classes begin, you'll be asked to ensure your child has a pencil case for all lessons; a checklist of contents is below. Each child must have their own equipment and will not be allowed to share.

Please complete the accompanying Application Form (put in an envelope) and post the **application form and £50** through the letterbox at the presbytery marked First Holy Communion. Please provide your child's original Baptismal Certificate (**only if your child was not baptised at Sacred Heart Parish Church**).

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept application forms from candidates who live outside the church boundary, even if they are a student at the Sacred Heart primary school.
Please see attached boundary map for your information:
https://sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk/download/catchment-area-map/

Please email: Andrea Hanbury andrearoe100@hotmail.com

Under GDPR regulations we need your consent for the First Holy Communion administrators to contact you.

Protecting your privacy - Your personal details will be stored and used by the Parish for the purposes of conducting and administering the Sacrament of First Holy Communion by signing below, you acknowledge that Church Law requires some of your personal data to be entered in Registers and stored permanently. Data may also have to be shared with the Diocese, e.g., in cases where certain permissions are needed.

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Details of how we process your data, and your rights, are on the full Privacy Notice and can be found at: rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy

I/we consent to my/our details being used and shared as above. I/we also give consent to [our names / our child's name] being published in the newsletter and Communion Day booklets.

Signed . . . . . Date . . . . . .

It's a tremendous privilege and joy to be a catechist and help prepare children for the Sacraments. All parents must be prepared to take on an active role to ensure the smooth running of the programme, more details to be given at the meeting. We are grateful for the trust that you place in us over the coming months.

We will be working together to ensure that your child will be well prepared for this important Sacrament. Your key role is that they attend sessions every week, therefore if your child misses more than two sessions without an important reason we will suggest your child is deferred until next year.
We require all families to be attending mass weekly.

If you attend mass at a different parish but would like your child to make their First Holy Communion at the Sacred Heart church, you will require written permission from your parish priest and consent from Father Jim, even if they attend the Sacred Heart primary school.
Closing date for applications is **Friday 8th January 2027.** No new applications will be accepted after the parents meeting on the Thursday 21st January at 7.30pm.

We look forward to meeting with you on **Thursday 21st January 2027 at 7.30pm**.
Blessed Imelda, Patron of First Communicants, pray for our children!

Blessings and best wishes,

The First Holy Communion Team 2026/2027

Checklist of materials for classes:
A bag to carry ibelong book and the following:

- Pens & pencils
- Eraser
- Felt tips / coloring pencils
- Glue stick
- Scissors



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Church Boundary

