Dear Parents and Carers October 2017

**New Arrangements for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation**

Bishop Marcus has decided that this school year we should begin to change the time when the Sacraments are celebrated with children and young people. There are different ways of doing this all over the world and it is not unusual for changes to be made now and then.

The most obvious change is that from now on First Communion will be celebrated in Year 4 (and not Year 3 as previously). Practically speaking this means that **there will not be any First Communions in our Parish and Diocese of Leeds in 2018**.

The Bishop has asked rather that we move to separating out the preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. So those who have just moved into Year 3 (from September 2017) will be invited to prepare for First Reconciliation only and then, when they begin Year 4 in September 2018, they will begin to prepare for First Holy Communion.

Most of us are used to Confirmation being celebrated for young people in Year 8. This is going to change and from September 2018 Confirmation will be celebrated in the first half of Year 6. This year of 2017/18 is a transition year which means that the **current Y5** **and Y6** children will begin preparing for Confirmation from the summer term of 2018. They will then celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation between November 2018 and February 2019 i.e. when they are in Y6 and Y7.

Please be aware you will need to complete the whole programme, Year A (First Reconciliation), Year B (First Communion) and Year C (Confirmation).

The RE Syllabus will also be adapted to fit in with these changes to sacramental preparation and celebration, to make sure that what your children are learning in their school RE lessons can be linked to the preparation they will have for the sacraments.

This all sounds a little more complicated than it really is and we will try to guide you through the process as much as we can. Further details of enrolment and timetables for the Sacramental preparation for Confirmation will be sent in due course.

The way we are going to prepare is also going to be different. In future you will be invited to take a more active part in preparation sessions. Again, we will do our very best to give you all the support you will need.

**Therefore all Y3 parents ONLY are warmly invited to a parents information meeting on**

**Monday 20th November in Corpus Christi Catholic school at 7.00pm.**

I look forward to meeting you.

*Fr Pat Wall*

Yours in Christ

Fr Pat Wall

Parish Priest