



Cathedral Parish Catechism Classes at St Andrew's, Ravelston



What?

Within St Mary's Cathedral Parish, **Catholic Catechism Classes** are held at St Andrew's church, Ravelston for all children of Primary School age - from Primary 1 to 7:

Primary 1 and 2 children learn of God's love and kindness for them. They are encouraged to practice simple prayers - and learn more about prayers through the rosary. They hear stories of the faith of Saints

The sacramental policy in the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh is:

- a) **Primary 3** children are prepared for the sacrament of **First Confession** or **Reconciliation**.
- b) **Primary 4** children are prepared for the sacrament of **First Holy Communion**.
- c) **Primary 7** children will be prepared for the sacrament of **Confirmation**.
Currently, we are transitioning from celebrating Confirmation in Primary 4, so the next Confirmation celebration will be in Spring 2021. Therefore Confirmation preparation is postponed until September 2020.

Meantime, the Youth Class (Primary 5-7) have a structured programme which touches on Bible Study; Stations of the Cross; the Rosary; revision of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and an occasional charitable fund-raising activity.

When?

Classes are timetabled to take place on Sundays at **9:30am** (immediately before Sunday morning Mass at 10:30am) within the school term. Where feasible, allowance is made for the differing term dates across Edinburgh schools. The session commences around the second Sunday of September and ends on the weekend of the celebration of First Holy Communion in the following May/June.

Why?

Edinburgh uniquely has a very large number of private schools; many with a Christian-based ethos; none of which are based on our Catholic faith. Some parents choose their local primary school over the Catholic primary school. These classes are driven by the desire of parents to pass-on their Catholic heritage - all classes are catechist-led. Children from all schools are very welcome, most especially if the children do not attend a Catholic school. All catechists require Archdiocesan and PVG certification.

Where?

Classes take place within St Andrews church (77 Belford Road, Ravelston EH4 3DS). Most sacramental celebrations will take place in St Mary's Catholic Cathedral, with St Mary's RC Primary school. However, First Holy Communion takes place in both St Mary's Cathedral & St Andrew's church on the same date and at the same time.



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How?

Class materials are provided by the Parish, although parents are invited to donate towards the cost of materials (*current suggested donations are £10 per child for P3 and £10 per child for P4*). Parents are also encouraged to volunteer in some capacity within the Parish.

As recommended by the Archdiocese, there are additional special steps for those children preparing for the sacraments: these take the form of several Liturgical Rites through the school session. These are beautiful, short rites which typically take place at the beginning of Sunday Mass in the Parish:

- a) In Primary 3, after Enrolment, these rites lead the children and their parents from Baptism to First Confession
- b) In Primary 4, after Enrolment, their focus is to 'pass on' key ecumenical messages of our Christian Faith (*Gospel, Creed and Our Father*) from one generation to the next.

There are also two parent evenings for each of P3 and P4 parents, where we step through the relative sacrament and cover various process particulars.

Sign-up?

- 1) Registration for the sacramental preparation classes (P3 or P4):
Please collect the appropriate registration form from either the Cathedral or St Andrews church, and return it to the Parish Office, Cathedral House, 61 York Place, Edinburgh EH1 3JD.
These forms are available annually in Aug & Sept.
- 2) Registration for all other classes (P1, P2 and Youth class):
Sign-up in person via the Catechist or Class Co-ordinator
- 3) Enquiries outwith August and September can be made via email to cathedralhouse@stmaryscathedral.co.uk

Please note that

- Registration includes the Parish Data Consent Form - Sacraments.
- In line with the Archdiocesan Safeguarding policy 'In Gods Image', a Parish Safeguarding Consent form will also be offered for completion.

Kindly refer to the Baptism process for this parish, should this initial sacrament also be required.

St Andrews church is within St Mary's Cathedral Parish, which is a parish of the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh, a Charity registered in Scotland - number SC008540