

St Joseph's Catholic Parish, Dorking

REGISTRATION FORM FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

Dear Parent/Guardian

This year, as you probably know, we will be using a new resource for preparing children for their First Holy Communion. It is called ***Growing Up Catholic*** and works differently from the way we have prepared the children in previous years.

Growing Up Catholic involves both parents¹ and children. Each child must be accompanied by at least one parent or guardian at each session. There are 12 sessions, each of one hour, and in each session the children are provided with a work sheet. You are provided material to help you guide your child as you work through the sheet together. All this is led by the catechists who lead the whole group in joint prayer and by introducing the themes, and they support the parents in working through the work sheet with their children. In this way you become much more involved in the preparation of your child for First Holy Communion, and perhaps learn something yourself!

Following the poll conducted earlier in the year, we have decided that the sessions will continue to be held on **Fridays at 5pm beginning on Friday 11th January**, and the sessions will be every Friday during term time until **the First Holy Communion on Sunday 11th May**.

Siblings may also attend, and they can either join in the session, get on with something themselves, or play quietly with other friends, perhaps in the Taunton Room if it is free. Light refreshments (tea, coffee, squash and biscuits) are provided for all.

Growing up Catholic is already being used very successfully in many parishes in Arundel and Brighton, and has the support of the diocese, which supplies the materials.

You can find out more at <http://www.growingupcatholic.com/parents.html>

Children are eligible to make their First Holy Communion once they are in year 3 at school. Please use the attached form to register your child for the First Holy Communion Programme. Please bring this completed form, and baptism certificate if your child was not baptised here at St Joseph's,² to **the initial registration and information meeting on Friday 9th November at 5pm**. Your child/ren are, of course, welcome to come with you. Full details of the programme will be given at that meeting.

Yours in Christ

¹ I use 'parents' as shorthand here – I recognise that sometimes a child may be accompanied by someone other than their parents, such as a grandparent or other guardian.

² If you can't locate the baptism certificate don't worry, we can see it later. If your child has not been baptised, or was baptised in another Christian tradition, then you will need to speak to Fr. Tony, but still come along.