



13th August 2020

Dear School and Parish Families,

Please find below important information in regards to your child's First Eucharist Mass.

By now you will have booked your Mass time (please see details below) and between now and when your child makes the sacrament, you will have accessed the online parent/child workshop opportunity at: <http://web.stemiliescops.wa.edu.au/?p=35101>

It is very important that you please **READ the information** on this note very carefully and avoid contacting Lyn Harkins, unless it is something that is *not* covered in the information you have received to date. Lyn has a very big job to do as coordinator of the sacramental program and parents are asked to respect her time and the decisions made for the good of all.

We are aware that some families are disappointed that they were unable to have extended family members attend, that they may not have been able to secure the mass slot they had hoped for and so on. Please try hard to keep these relatively small disappointments in perspective. We are living through an unprecedented time that calls us all to be generous and kind to one another, particularly our Parish Priests and Sacramental coordinators.

Please note that it will be each families' responsibility to ensure that children arrive on time, that they are well behaved and show reverence and respect in the church. Because there will be 20 masses over five weeks and because we need to try and create as much seating space as possible, staff and catechists won't be there.

Reminder Notes for 1st Eucharist Families 2020

Reconciliation prior to 1st Holy Communion.

We are encouraging all the children to receive Reconciliation prior to their 1st Holy Communion. The opportunities for Reconciliation are between 5.30pm to 6pm Tuesday to Friday before weekday Masses, and 30 minutes before each weekend Masses.

Change of Time for Advertised 9am Sunday Masses to 9.30am

Due to the Covid19 restrictions still in place, we want to remind families who have chosen the 9am Sunday morning mass, that the mass time remains at 9.30am.

Extra Mass Available for 1st Eucharist

Due to COVID, you may be interested to know that Father Jean-Noel Marie has added the extra **3pm Mass** on Sundays as an extra Mass for families to attend and children to receive their 1st Eucharist. This Mass has approximately 50 parishioners attending whilst the 9.30am Mass has approximately 190 parishioners attending. These have now been added to the bookings on the online booking system. To choose this Mass you need to go in and cancel your previous Mass and add this as your preferred 1st Eucharist Mass.



Details about how to do this are on the school website at <http://web.stemiliescps.wa.edu.au/?p=34682>

On the Day

Remember you need to arrive on time, so please try and be there 30 minutes prior to the Mass time. Don't forget to **Tick Off Your Name** in the Foyer.

Please sit at the front section of the church in the **Reserved Seating** for the 1st Eucharist Families. There are only four rows reserved and these will be identified by signs at the end of each pew. The reserved seating is for the **Communicant, two Parents, and any other siblings in the family**. Social distancing applies between each family. Other family and friends will need to sit elsewhere in the church assuming that there is room. Please bear in mind that there are still restricted numbers allowed in the church and outside the church.

When it is time for Communion Father will invite parents and communicants to come forward to receive. Parents are invited to place their hand on their child's shoulders as they receive. The Communicant will receive first, then the parents will receive straight after and then all will return to their seats. **This happens before the rest of the Congregation takes Communion.**

Dress

In keeping with tradition, if the children would like to wear something white, say the boys a white shirt and the girls a simple white dress, that would be lovely, but they are NOT obliged to wear white. It is enough for the children to wear smart dress, or what we used to call 'Sunday Best'.

Photographs

We would ask that you NOT take photographs during the Mass. There will be time before Mass and afterwards to get some photos. Father will be happy to join families for photo opportunities after the Mass.

Important - Photos

For our archives, we ask that each family emails or sends a hardcopy photo of their child (ren) on their 1st Holy Communion Day to either Lyn Harkin for Catechist children, or to the class teacher (for St Emilie's CPS children) after the event.

Certificates

St Emilie's children will receive their certificates from the school, the week after receiving their 1st Eucharist. The Catechist children can pick up their certificates **from the parish office** on the Tuesday after they have received their 1st Eucharist.

We hope you enjoy this special day and support your child on their life-long Eucharistic journey.

Regards

Stuart Munro and the Parish Sacramental Team