

Dear Parents/Guardians

Sacrament of Reconciliation and Sacrament of the Eucharist (Holy Communion)

We would like to invite you to enrol your child to prepare for these Sacraments.

Thank you to those who sent in their views about preparation for these sacraments. After a period of consultation between school and parish we are putting in place two new preparation programmes, one for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and one for the Sacrament of the Eucharist (Holy Communion). Father William and Mr Talbot both feel that the preparation for these sacraments would be better served by being taken out of the school day. However the school will host the preparation programmes, using school premises and school facilities, and class teachers will work together with parish catechists to lead the sessions. Some of the later sessions will take place in church where your child will be celebrating the Sacrament of the Eucharist (Holy Communion).

Taking the preparation programmes out of the school day gives you, as parents, the freedom to decide when your child is ready for these sacraments, without being tied to a particular school year. For your child it may be when they are in Year 3, it may be Year 4, it may be in Year 5, or it may be in Year 6. There will be a **Parents' Information session on Monday 24 November at 7pm in church** for all parents and guardians where you will have an opportunity to meet the catechists, have a look at the programmes and ask questions. This may also help you decide if your child is ready for this yet.

We have looked at the options for the programmes to use and have decided to use the "I BELONG" course, which is also used by the other Harrogate parishes. "I BELONG" has approx. 4 sessions on Reconciliation and 8 on the Eucharist (Holy communion). There are also several parent sessions, as we recognise parents are the primary educators of their children and need support to help their children at this special time in their lives. These are intended to be relaxed, informal sessions and we encourage you to commit to them too.

The sessions will be coordinated by Emma Tolan and facilitated by approximately eight other catechists from the parish and school community.

Sacramental preparation is a memorable time in your child's life; the memories you help to create during this period will be cherished for years to come. We do however recognise the diversity in the make-up of family life and we therefore acknowledge the importance for you to feel comfortable and welcome and that both you and your child will be given all the resources and support you need.

The course will be held in school on Wednesdays and starts on 14 January, 3.25pm-4.30pm. The course will run until mid May.

To enrol your child, please complete the attached form and return it to school, together with your child's Baptism certificate and two copies of a recent photo (which will be used for display in school and church). If you want to come along to the information evening before committing please just fill in the bottom slip just with your child's name and yours.

To cover the cost of the 'I belong' book, craft resources and refreshments we are asking for £12 per child, please let us know if money is a problem as there should be no barrier to joining this preparation. Once you have enrolled your child, the fee will appear on parent pay.

Non-Catholic children who want to attend are of course very welcome to join in the preparation, as are their parents to join in the parent sessions.

Every blessing,

**Father William, Emma Tolan & Lee Talbot**

**St Mary's Catholic Knaresborough  
Home-School-Parish sacramental programme 2014-15**

Name of Child:	
Address:	
email	
phone	
Date of Birth:	
Date of Baptism:	
Church baptised:	
Names of Parents:	

I wish my child to participate in preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. I am prepared to support my child by helping with homework and joining in the parental meetings.

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

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**OR**

**I would like to come to information evening on Monday 24 November at 7pm in church, before committing to the programme.**

Name of child ..... Year group.....

Name of parent.....

