

***St. Mary's Presbytery
120 Cadzow Street
Hamilton
ML3 6HP
01698 423552***

**Feast of the Nativity of Mary
September 8th 2020**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and in good spirits, despite the many challenges affecting us all at this time. The good news is that we are responding to these challenges together and finding ways forward. I am sure it is a deep consolation to us all that our schools have re-opened their doors to welcome back our young people to resume their education and formation.

In consultation with St. Mary's Primary I am delighted to be able to offer some dates for the celebration of First Holy Communion. Of course we need to follow the guidelines set out by the Scottish Government and by the Bishops of Scotland. Each child would be accompanied by parents or guardians plus two other guests, siblings or grandparents or perhaps godparents. The guests should be from the same household.

I know these restrictions mean that our celebration will be different to what we normally have and I feel sorry about that, especially for the children who very much enjoy the company of their school friends on such a beautiful occasion. However, it is important to me as their parish priest that our young parishioners get the opportunity to receive their First Holy Communion and indeed the strength that comes from receiving the Eucharist.

I am looking forward very much to celebrating First Holy Communion with the children from St. Mary's Primary on the following dates:

**Saturday, October 31st at 10.30am
Sunday November 1st at 1pm
Saturday, November 7th at 10.30am
Sunday November 8th at 1pm
Saturday November 14th at 10.30am
Sunday November 15th at 1pm**

**The Headteacher, Mrs. Fitzpatrick, will be in touch with you to invite you to make a booking for one of these dates. I thank you in advance for your co-operation with the school and the parish and look forward very much to welcoming you to St. Mary's with your son or daughter,
Yours sincerely,**

Father Henry O'Brien