Parish of St Thomas More Church, Dulwich

First Holy Communion 2027 Application Form

Where there is more than one child joining, please fill out a form for **each** child.

Please email your form back to dulwichfhc@rcaos.org.uk or hand it into the Parish Office by **Sunday 29th November 2026**. By completing your form on time, you will really help us get the classes up and running smoothly! **Obligatory meeting for the parents is on Monday 7th December at 7.30pm in the John Paul Centre.**

Child's name as it appears on their Baptismal Certificate* *(this is to ensure that Baptismal and FCH certificates show the same name)*	
School and Year Group	
Parents'/Guardians' names	
Parents' mobile number(s)	*Primary* *Secondary*
Email Address(es) to be used for all communication with the FHC Team	
Family address	
Child's Date and Place of Baptism (Please supply a copy of the Baptismal Certificate if this was not in St Thomas More Parish – a photo on email is ok!)	
Please state if you can act as a catechist helper (or with another aspect e.g. music) required DBS to be organised via the parish	
Any additional information we should know about (e.g. allergies etc)	

Please indicate a 1st, 2nd & 3rd timeslot preference. We try to give everyone a time that suits them. However, depending on numbers we might not be able to give everyone their first choice. If you only put one timeslot, we will have to randomly assign you by picking names out of a hat if classes become oversubscribed. Thank you for your understanding.

Saturday: 9:00 – 10:15	
Saturday: 13:30 – 14:45	
Saturday: 15.30 – 16.45	

GDPR NOTE: We will keep your details on file for as long as you consider yourself to be a member of the parish. If you move away from the parish, please let us know and we will remove your data.

CLASSES WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Lesson 1: Saturday 9th January 2027

Lesson 2: Saturday 16th January 2027

Lesson 3: Saturday 23rd January 2027

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 30th January 2027

Lesson 4: Saturday 6th March 2027

Lesson 5: Saturday 13th March 2027

Lesson 6: Saturday 20st March 2027

Lesson 7: Saturday 24th April 2027 this class will last 15 minutes longer (it will be 1.5 hours) than usual to accommodate a full First Communion Mass rehearsal.

The children will receive their First Holy Communion in May. Exact dates and times to follow.

Parental Agreement (please read and sign)

I agree to the obligations of the First Holy Communion programme specified in the Q&A sheet. I acknowledge the dates above and have noted them in my diary. I will try to do my best to support my child in their faith development and to cooperate with the catechists and the clergy for the benefit of us all.

…….

(Signature and date)

Parish of St Thomas More Church, Dulwich – First Holy Communion Q&A Sheet

What programme of preparation are you following?
The programme we have chosen to follow is called "With You Always". It is fun, interactive, easy to follow and will allow you to work closely with your child as he/she takes this very important next step in his/her faith journey. There are **seven sessions** in total, as well as the celebrations of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, with a rehearsal before the final Communion Mass (exact dates and times to follow in due course). **There is also a meeting for parents (only one from each family need attend) on Wednesday 7th December 2026 at 7:30pm in the John Paul Centre, so that you can meet the catechists and ask any questions you may have.** We will arrange another meeting for parents towards the end of the course.

How often will we be expected to attend? How long will the sessions be?
We'll split the children into three groups, with one coming for lessons on Saturday mornings (9:00am), and the next two groups on Saturday afternoons (13:30pm and 15.00pm). Parents and children will be expected to attend **all seven lessons** and you will be allocated a time slot which cannot be changed, although you'll be able to express a preference and we will do everything we can to accommodate you. You'll find the relevant lesson dates on the application form. **Each class will last 1 hour 15 minutes and a parent MUST stay on site throughout the lessons, so that they can attend the accompanying parent sessions which will be run by the clergy at the same time as the children's classes.**

When and where will the classes take place?
Classes will take place in the John Paul Centre (the parish hall of St Thomas More) on the Saturdays specified on the application form. Your class time slot will be emailed to you well in advance.

My child struggles with reading/writing, will there be a lot of reading/writing?
We have chosen this programme because it is laid out in a fun and accessible way and isn't too overwhelming. The catechists have been trained to help each child as much as possible and we will be on hand to support anyone that needs it. Please don't worry, but if you do have a particular concern, please share it on the application form and also with whoever is leading your child's group, so that they know how best to be of help.

Where do I go when they have dropped off my child?
As outlined above one parent per child MUST remain on site throughout the duration of the class – you cannot just drop them off and leave the premises.
In order for this to work well, we hope that a few parents from each group will be able to stay with the children's group to support the catechists and to help make sure that things run smoothly. If you feel you might be able to help with that, please let us know on the application form. Those parents who don't stay with the children's group will spend time with a member of the clergy for the parental session, where they can find out how best to support their children. Before you become a parent helper the parish is obliged to request you undergoing a DBS process in order to receive a basic Safeguarding training and a DBS certificate.

How will you decide which group my child will go into?
You'll find the time slots on the application form, and we would like everyone to give us their order of preference, so that we can allocate the groups as fairly as possible. **Please return your form by Sunday 29th November 2026.**

I have two children joining, will they be in the same group?
Yes. Unless for some reason you would prefer that they weren't.

Can I make sure that my child is in a group with his / her closest friends?
We are going to have to juggle a lot of names and preferences **so we won't be able to accommodate requests for particular children to be together for the classes**. We will try to be as fair as possible when allocating the time slots, so please bear with us and will let you know your child's time ASAP. Please don't ask to change your slot.

Can I bring siblings to the class?
We ask that you don't bring siblings to the classes. However, if you have no other option, they will have to remain with you in the parents' sessions.

When will the Sacrament of Reconciliation take place?
On **Saturday 30th January 2026** at your child's usual class time. We will have prepared the children the week before it, so there is no need to worry.

When will the celebration of First Holy Communion take place?
Your child will receive his / her First Holy Communion with the rest of his / her group at a special Mass on a Saturday in May. We will give you exact dates and times as soon as we can.

Will the catechists have DBS clearance?
Yes.

I'm not sure about being a parent helper, what does it involve?
It mainly involves supporting your catechist by handing out materials and helping to keep group discussions going in a productive manner. You won't be expected to lead any classes – that's the catechists' job! We would need to help you obtain a DBS for this role though, via the Parish Safeguarding Representative, as the DBS checks from other places won't count.

Will the lessons cost anything?
Every Sacrament we receive in the Church is a gift that we are given freely. However, there is a possibility of supporting our sacramental preparation (buying lesson materials etc). Every family will have the opportunity to support the programme participating in the collection during the First Holy Communion Mass, if you so wish. There is no obligation to do this.

Is there anything else I should be doing in order to support my child during the programme?
Yes. The best way to support your child/ren during the programme is to make sure that you attend the parental sessions so that you know exactly what they have been learning and can continue to reinforce that teaching in your own families, in your own time. Equally important is your participation with all Catholic members of your family in weekly Sunday Mass, as well as daily prayer with your child/children. Thank you for your parental effort.