

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

PARTNERSHIP: HOME, SCHOOL & PARISH

PARISH

- Offer parents time to reflect on the importance of the two sacraments the child is preparing for and how best to support the child.
- Pray for the children of First Communion class at Sunday Mass.
- Have a Service of Light Ceremony in the parish.
- Frequent school visitation to support pupils and teachers.
- Home visitation.
- Decorate the church appropriately for the two sacraments.

HOME

- Show an active interest in your child's religious work and preparation.
- Encourage the children to learn the stories in Alive O 4
- Accompany the child to Mass for months prior to First Holy Communion.
- Teach the child the prayers for First Penance and First Holy Communion.
- Talk to them about what they are doing at school. Discuss the themes they are covering at the time: e.g. *Being Me, Being Us. Not Being Bothered, Not Being True. Being a Bully, Being Unfair, Being Selfish.*
- Light a candle at teatime and get the child to say a prayer.
- Give the child the gift of a Children's Bible.
Read Bible stories to the child, especially the ones they are doing in school.
- Pray at home: Night Prayer, Grace before/after Meals, pray in the car.
- Share your memories of First Penance/Holy Communion with your child.
- Practice your own faith regularly and encourage your child to do likewise.
- Continue to lead by example.

SCHOOL

- Provide the children with prayer experiences.
- Tell them Bible stories about the life of Jesus.
- Prepare some art on the various themes: Mass: The Last Supper, Sharing a Meal, Listening to God's Word and the various aspects of Forgiveness.
- Prepare the hymns for First Penance and First Holy Communion.
- Encourage the children to share some Communion money with children in undeveloped countries.
- Decorate the church for Penance and First Holy Communion.

