



Diocese of Arundel & Brighton

St Mary Magdalene's Parish Community

St Mary Magdalene. St Martha's & Our Lady of the Rosary

stmm@btconnect.com / 01424 210 263



"We Journey Together"

Application for Christian Initiation of Catechetical Aged Children:

Baptism (aged 7-13), Receptions and Holy Communion (aged 9-13)

(please complete one form per child)

Child's Full Name:

Date of Birth: / / 20 ____

Date of Christian Baptism: / / 20 ____ or if unbaptised tick here: ☐

Place of Christian Baptism: _____ Catholic Church: Yes / No

You must supply the baptismal certificate with your application

Usual Mass community: _____ and Time: _____

Parents' or Carers' Details

Mother's Name: _____ Catholic Yes / No

& Maiden name: _____

Father's Name: _____ Catholic Yes / No

Address: _____ Post Code: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

In asking that your child receive the sacraments, you are making a serious commitment to bring your child up in the Catholic Faith. Please sign that you have read the accompanying information sheet. Preparation starts in the autumn, but it is the expectation that you have already began to join the community's life of prayer and service, so that it may flourish and continue after the conferral of the requested sacraments.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

*Please return this form to the parish office at **St Mary Magdalene, Sea Road, Bexhill, TN40 1RH**
You may be asked to make an appointment to see one of the parish clergy before being accepted onto the sacramental programme. The Diocese of Arundel & Brighton is a Registered Charity, No. 252878*



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Notes for Guidance: Thank you for taking time to find out about the sacraments for your child(ren).

Baptism: For various reasons, many children are not baptised as infants. For parents who are serious about wanting their children baptised (and not merely for Catholic School entry), we, as a parish, offer an enjoyable programme of preparation. As a community we wish to help in the important task of handing on the faith to your child(ren). In baptism, your child(ren) are called to be a disciple of Christ and receives the gift of the Holy Spirit, becoming a member of the Church of God, and soon after baptism, sometimes even in the same celebration, the life of God is nourished in Holy Communion.

Godparents: these should be **baptised, confirmed and practicing Catholics**, be sufficiently mature to understand their role, live out a Christian witness and who will maintain contact with your child(ren). One Godparent is enough, but you may choose more.

Reception into full communion with the Catholic Church: for various reason some children are baptised as Christians in other denominations and now the parents (of whom one will already be a Catholic) has discerned that their child(ren) should now be received into full communion with the Catholic Church by a formal act of reception. This course is suitable for your child(ren).

First Holy Communion: Many children make and receive their First Holy Communion around the age of 8 in School Year 3, but this is not always the case. Children who are a bit older (aged 9+ at the start of the programme) may now find the content of the First Holy Communion course insufficient for their needs. Therefore, the We Journey Together Course might be more appropriate as the catechists on this course are well used to tailoring the content to children of various ages.

NB: For the conferral of these sacraments, at least one parent should be a practicing Catholic, as parental support is vital if the faith is to be nurtured and parents remain the first teacher of their children in the way of faith. If neither parent is Catholic, it would be appropriate for at least one parent to consider their own baptism or reception into the Catholic Faith via the RCIA programme.

Support: It is not easy for any parent to teach about Jesus and his Church on their own. That is why as a community we strive to help one another on that journey of faith. To help you along the way we provide many useful resources. Hopefully, you have already spent at least a year establishing yourselves as members of the community so that you are now able to discern that your child(ren) are ready to begin this period of preparation. You the parents, are asked to attend the preparation along with your child(ren) and there is separate time for the parents and children to work on the themes at their level. We always begin and end the session with a time of prayer.

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