

The Catholic Church in Darwen.

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH & SACRED HEART AND ST. EDWARD'S CHURCH

PARISH OFFICE: CHURCH HOUSE, 370 BLACKBURN ROAD,
DARWEN, LANCASHIRE. BB3 0AA

TEL: 01254 702525 / 702026 E-MAIL: priest@darwencatholic.org.uk

WEB SITES: www.stjosephsdarwen.org.uk www.darwencatholic.org.uk

Parish Priest: Father Peter Wilkinson

4 September 2011

Dear Parents,

I am very pleased to invite you to consider enrolling your child into the Sacramental Programme 2011/2012 at one of the Catholic Churches in Darwen. This continues the Initiation into the Church which you began when you had your child baptised. The next steps are as follows:

1. Registration and Enrollment of your child on the programme.

If your own Faith in Jesus Christ and involvement in the church is such that you want to **register** your child for enrollment on the programme, please collect a REGISTRATION CARD from church. These cards will be made available in September 2011. Please complete this card and bring it to a meeting for parents on **Thursday 6th October 2011**. This registration meeting will be at 2.30pm in Sacred Heart and St. Edward's Parish Hall and repeated at 7.00pm in St. Joseph's Parish Hall. Please attend only one or the other. This meeting is for parents and not for the children.

After you have registered your child, you will need to bring him/her along to be **Enrolled** on the Parish Sacramental Programme. There will be two Enrollment Masses. For **St. Joseph's Church**, the enrollment Mass will be at **6.15pm on Saturday 15th October**. For **St. Edward's Church**, the enrollment Mass will be at **11.00am on Sunday 16th October**. Every child must be REGISTERED and ENROLLED to be on the programme.

2. Complete the full programme.

Children who attend Catholic Schools will cover much of the preparation in school. Extra arrangements for instruction will be arranged for children who do not attend Catholic Schools. All the children will need to purchase a work book which will be available from church.

Every child, whichever school they go to, will need to attend the Parish Celebration Masses in preparation for receiving the Sacraments. In St. Joseph's Church, these will be the Saturday Vigil Masses at 6.15pm. In St. Edward's Church, these will be the Sunday morning Masses at 11.00am.

The dates of these Masses are as follows:

St. Joseph's	St. Edward's
Saturday 26 th November 2011	Sunday 27 th November 2011
Saturday 4 th February 2012	Sunday 26 th February 2012
Saturday 31 st March 2012	Sunday 1 st April 2012

Children will be expected to attend all three of these celebration Masses if they are to receive the

Sacraments of Confession, Confirmation and Holy Communion in 2012.

3. The child will make his/her First Confession.

On **Saturday 25th February** the children on the programme at St. Joseph's will make their First Confession in church at 10.30am after the 10.00am Mass to which they are also invited.

On **Tuesday 28th February** the children on the programme at St. Edward's will make their First Confession in church at a service at 6pm.

4. The child will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

We do not know at this stage if the bishop will be coming to Darwen for Confirmation.

If he does, the Confirmations will take place together at a date and time which he will give us.

If the bishop is not coming, the **Confirmations will be on Sunday 27th May, Pentecost Sunday**. The parish priest will be delegated to stand in for him. If this is the case we do not know yet if we shall have two celebrations, one in each church, or a combined celebration of Confirmation.

This will be the bishop's decision and we will know nearer the time.

5. You will then be able to book a date for your child to receive Holy Communion for the first time.

At some time in the New Year, a list will be placed on the notice board in each church giving options for the date and Mass at which your child will receive Holy Communion for the first time. These dates will be the Saturday Vigil Masses and Sunday Masses on the weekends beginning the 16th June.

6. You will be invited to join the Full Celebration at Sunday Mass.

Once all the children have received Holy Communion for the first time, they are all invited back again to make a special occasion of all receiving together and having a Communion Breakfast in the Parish Hall. This will happen at each church on **Sunday 15th July 2012**. This will be another time for great celebrations and for full group photographs.

7. Second Meeting for parents.

There will be a second meeting for parents. This will be held on **Thursday 17th May** in the parish hall at St. Edward's for both sets of parents.

I am looking forward to celebrating with you this important year in the life of your child and trust that you will enter into this joyful time with enthusiasm and give us and your child your support.

If you wish to involve your child in this programme, it will be necessary for at least one parent of your child to attend one of the meetings on the 6th October 2011. If you are unable to attend on this day then you must contact me to make other arrangements. My phone number is at the top of this letter.

Thank you and God bless,



Fr. Peter