**Dear Parents /Guardians,**

As you know due to pandemic a lot of restrictions are in place. In order to ensure that everyone coming for the celebration of the Sacrament of the first Holy Communion is safe, we have put in place some guidelines. Please take your time to read through the details below and if you have any question or concerns our parish contact details are at the end of this page.

**What time will the ceremony start?**

The ceremony will start at 12:00PM or 14PM depending on your chosen date.

**Will the First Holy Communion Candidates take part in reading and prayer of the faithful?**

**Yes,**our first Holy Communion boys and girls will take part in readings or prayer of the faithful. Please indicate when booking that you would like your child to take part in the reading. The school will not be in session during the period our ceremonies will take place so if you indicate child would like to read, we will email the reading to you.

**Will the First Holy Communion children be singing at the ceremony?**

Unfortunately, there will be no singing but music will be played.

**Will First Holy Communion children be bringing up symbols or offertory gifts?**

There will be no bringing up of symbols for the ceremony and we will not have offertory procession either. Symbols will already be placed in the scared space before we start the celebration. This is to limit surfaces being touched by multiple people.

**Do we bring anything on the day?**

Yes, only bring a copy of the reading assigned to your child.

**How many people can we bring along?**

The candidate and the two parents or guardians. So in total TWO people with each candidate. We had hoped the Government would ease the restrictions to allow us to have more in the Church but are limited to just 50. We encourage others to follow the ceremony via our parish webcam on our Youtube Channel.

**How long will the ceremony last?**

We hope it will not be more than 45mins. We encourage you to be on time. We also encourage you not to stay back to chat in the church at the end of the ceremony because we will be cleaning and airing the church in preparation for next liturgy.

**What will happen during the reception of the Holy Communion?**

We encourage one of the parents/guardians to accompany their child to the altar for the reception of the Holy communion. Please if your child is wearing gloves, please assist him or her by taking them off during the reception of Communion. If your child’s dress will hinder them from proceeding to the altar please assist them to smooth movement to the altar. Please we ask you to ensure that the child is not chewing gum.

**Can we take pictures during the ceremony?**

No. Please due to GDPR and to avoid distractions, we ask you not to take pictures during the ceremony. You can however take pictures after the ceremony, but we request you do not enter the sanctuary.

**What safety measures will be put in place?**

Doors will be held open to reduce the need for people to touch surfaces such as door handles.

The clergy, sacristan, stewards and parish team will be wearing masks.

We recommend everyone coming into the church should wear a mask.

Everyone will have to use the provided hand sanitizers as they enter the Church.

There will be a one-way system and social distancing in operation in the Church, assisted by our stewards.

All seat assignments will be 2 metres apart. During the celebration back doors will remain open (weather permitting) to allow for better ventilation.

Surfaces which may have been touched will be sanitised afterwards.

**Where can I find more information on guidelines in place in the parish?**

Please refer to our parish website for additional information on the policies which are currently in place in the Church in response to Covid-19.

**What are the contact details for the parish office?**

Please if you have any question or concern do not hesitate to email us:Email: stpatrickschurchlucan@gmail.com or phone us:Tel: (01) 628 1018