



MOST HOLY TRINITY BUNCLODY

18th September 2014

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Your child's journey in faith towards God began on the day of their baptism. During the baptism ceremony, you lit the baptismal candle as a symbol of your willingness to share the light of faith with your child in the years ahead. This is an ongoing commitment on your child's journey. But like any journey, there are points of greater significance along the way. In the Catholic tradition these are called sacraments. The sacraments are points of deep contact with God along the journey.

Being in Second Class, this year your child is invited by the Christian community to receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion. These celebrations are not just about a ceremony or about a day, but involve a whole year of preparation, and should be followed by regular reception of these sacraments which, over time, will lead to a deep communion with God. We should never underestimate how God may touch our children. This preparation will involve the co-operation of parents, school and priest, as each of us have an important part to play in handing on our faith. This year the parish will follow the "Do this in memory" programme, which is all about strengthening this co-operation.

In the prayer of blessing at the conclusion of a baptism, the priest addresses the parents: "You will be the first teachers of your child in the ways of faith: may you also be the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what you say and what you do" Since our children learn a great deal by observing our behaviour, it is important that they see us practising our faith. We affirm the ways that you assist your child in this regard; praying with your child, taking them each weekend to Mass and teaching them how to respond to the prayers, taking an active interest in their religious instruction and backing up the work of our excellent teachers.

In order to begin this programme, the parish is organising a meeting of all the parents of first Holy Communion children. This will take place in the **pastoral centre on Thursday September 18th at 8 pm.** All parents are asked to attend.

The 2015 programme will commence on Sunday 5th **October** at **12 Noon Mass** in the Church of the Most Holy Trinity Bunclody. Your child will be enrolled into the Communion Programme at this Mass.

So that we may be sure of your support and your full participation in this programme, we invite you to fill in the Commitment form enclosed and return it to Bean Uí Mhaoláin/Mrs O'Rourke as soon as possible. **In the event that your child was not baptised in Bunclody, please obtain a certificate of baptism from the parish where the baptism took place, and forward this to the class teacher within the next few weeks.**

With every good wish and blessing,

Laurence O'Connor

V. Rev. Laurence O'Connor P.P.