

With You Always programme

The 'With You Always' programme prepares the children for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion. Making the blessed sacraments is a significant stage in your child's Catholic journey and the 'With You Always' programme helps them to understand and appreciate the true meaning of each. The way children are prepared for these sacraments changed a couple of years ago. Instead of teachers, catechists and priests teaching children and parents about the sacraments, they will help parents to hand down their own faith to their children, fulfilling the responsibility parents take when their child is baptised. These changes are intended to help us understand that parents are the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith and that we are all called to get to know Jesus better throughout our life's journey.

The *With You Always* resource aims to:

- engage parents and children in sessions that are welcoming and active
- offer time for parents and children to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ within the parish community
- help parents and children learn about the Faith and respond to God's Word in their daily lives
- prepare parents and children for the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist in the primary school years.

The *With You Always* resource has 7 sessions, parent and child booklets; folders and catechist books can be ordered as required.

Worksheets for the sessions and information leaflets for parents/guardians can be found at <https://www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/eucharist>

Each Session has the same structure:

- **Introduction:** catechists deliver a brief welcome to the session and its themes.
- **Gathering:** parent/carer and child link the session theme with life experience.
- **Sharing Scripture and Tradition:** parent/carer and child read about Scripture (Old and New Testaments) and Catholic Tradition.
- **Responding:** parent/carer and child share an activity.
- **Celebrating:** the Catechist leads prayer in the large group.
- **Taking out:** sessions end with a task to complete at home during the month.

Session content

September: *Come to the water* (Sign of the Cross & Family/Baptism).

October: *Called by name* (Names/Saints).

November: *Come back to me* (Sign of Peace & Choices/Reconciliation).

Advent: *Family Reconciliation* (First Reconciliation).

December: *Advent/Christmas* (celebration to be decided by the parish or Pastoral Area).

January: *A new way of living* (Following Jesus & The Beatitudes).

February: *Teach us to pray* (Prayer & Growth/Lord's Prayer).

March: *Jesus brings us together* (Jesus Feeds Us & The Triduum & Community/Eucharist).

Lent/Holy Week/Easter: (celebration to be decided by the parish or Pastoral Area).

April/May: *Jesus calls us to follow Him* (Receiving Holy Communion & Jesus/Eucharist).

May/June: Rehearsal for the First Communion Mass for parents and children & Communion Mass with families).