

ST. HUGH OF LINCOLN FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025-2026 APPLICATION FORM



PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO REGISTER.

Eligibility and registration

You are eligible to register for the programme if your child has been baptised and will be entering **Year 3 (or higher) at school in September 2025.**

To register please follow the link at the end of this document and complete the online form.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything with the FHC Co-Ordinator then please contact Amy Higham via Email: sthugh.holycommunion@gmail.com or contact the Parish Office on knaphill@abdiocese.org.uk

For the duration of the programme, we will use email as the primary means of communication with parents, so it is essential to provide an email address when registering.

The First Holy Communion Programme 2025/26

The First Holy Communion Programme will prepare your child for their **First Reconciliation and for their First Holy Communion.** The programme is intended for **practising Catholic parishioners who worship at St. Hugh of Lincoln in Knaphill**, though if your circumstances are different, please contact Amy. The programme will begin in October 2025 and end in June 2026.

Further details of the programme will be provided to parents on registration. The course outline and dates are available already on the parish website. Broadly, it will entail a commitment for children to attend a 1 ½ hour session per month on a Tuesday evening in the church and/or parish hall; attendance at the 9:30am Mass on the Sunday that follows each session and parental attendance at approximately three Tuesday evening sessions. There will be additional activities after some of the Masses.

Commitment to participation

We cannot run a programme successfully on the basis of part-time commitment, either of parents or their children. We publish the course dates now so that you can plan ahead for full commitment.

The programme is taught and administered by a small team of parent volunteers, who have themselves in previous years had children on the parish first communion programme, along with our Parish Priest Fr. Rob Esdaile.

If you are unsure at this stage whether you can commit fully to the programme, please discuss your circumstances with Amy before you register. It is much better to try to resolve any issues now, rather than doing so following a lack of attendance, which is inevitably difficult for all.

Important dates to be aware of now

First Reconciliations will be held on **Saturday 21st, Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th March 2025**

Booking for individual slots will open in February on a first come, first served basis. Without receiving their First Reconciliation your child will not be able to continue with the programme, as this is a Church requirement. Therefore, if you are unable to make any of these dates, it may not be appropriate to register for this year's programme.

The First Communion Masses will be held on **Saturdays 13th and 20th June 2025** with rehearsal sessions the Friday evenings before the First Holy Communion Mass. Due to difficult experiences from the past, we will be allocating these Masses randomly.

We cannot offer Masses based on parental preferences, simply because we cannot guarantee everyone's preferences, given the need to keep numbers even between the Masses. **Please therefore make sure that both First Holy Communion Mass dates are blocked out in your diaries when registering.**

Baptism certificates

If your child was baptised at another parish you must **please supply a copy (not the original) of your child's baptism certificate to the catechetical team at the introductory session on Tuesday 7 October 2025**. It is essential that we have these in order for your child to continue on the programme. If you have misplaced your child's baptism certificate, please contact the parish office where your child was baptised to arrange for a duplicate to be issued (we are unable to do this for you). If your child was baptised at St. Hugh of Lincoln, Knaphill or St Dunstan's, Woking there is no need to supply a copy certificate as the Baptism will be verified by the Parish Office.

Donation towards course materials

There is no payment required for sacramental preparation courses, and all team members running the course are volunteers. However, there is a cost to the parish of running the course, including printing and copying costs, and costs of other perishable materials. Therefore, we ask every family who is able to make a donation of £20 to the parish to cover the cost of these materials. The card machine will be available at the first session on the 7 October, and envelopes will be available for cash payment. All donations are gratefully received to enable the parish to assist you in the preparation of your children for these great sacraments.

Closure of registration and other administrative issues

All registration forms must be received by Monday 29 September. Parents will be emailed the following week with further details of the programme. We advise you strongly to schedule the programme dates in your diaries now so as to ensure full commitment to the programme.

The First Holy Communion team looks forward to welcoming you and your child on the programme!

Please now use the following Microsoft Forms link to register online :

<https://forms.office.com/e/WAEiUPBNHs>