

Admissions Policy: Parish Catechesis Programme (First Holy Communion & Confirmation)

A Message from the Parish Priest

I joyfully extend a warm invitation to your children to join our Parish Catechesis Programme. This journey of faith is a beautiful and sacred time, as our young ones grow in their understanding and love for Jesus Christ and His Church. Preparing for First Holy Communion and Holy Confirmation are pivotal moments, deepening their relationship with God and integrating them more fully into our vibrant parish family. We eagerly anticipate walking alongside you and your children on this blessed path.

In Christ,

Fr Keith Bonnici

Parish Priest

Our Vision for Catechesis

Our catechesis programme is dedicated to nurturing a living and active faith in our children. We aim to help them build a personal relationship with Jesus, understand the richness of the Catholic tradition, and joyfully participate in the life of our parish community. Through engaging lessons, prayer, and fellowship, we strive to lay a strong foundation for a lifelong journey of faith.

Eligibility

To ensure that our programme serves the children of our community effectively, we have two main criteria for admission:

- **Residency:** The child and their family must reside within the official geographical boundaries of our parish.
- **Age:** The programme is open to children from the age of 6 (or those entering Year 2 of primary school) up to the age of 12.

Our Commitment to Inclusion

We believe that every child is a precious gift from God, and our parish is a home for all. Therefore, we wish to explicitly state that **all children who reside within our parish boundaries are eligible and most welcome to register for our catechesis programme**. We are committed to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for every child.

For parents and guardians of children with special needs, learning difficulties, disabilities, allergies, or any other specific requirements, please know that we are here to support you. We are dedicated to collaborating with you to understand your child's needs and to provide the best possible accommodations and support to ensure their full and joyful participation in the programme. Your child's well-being and spiritual growth are our priority.

Registration Process

Registering your child for the Catechesis Programme is a straightforward process:

1. **Obtain the Registration Form:** Forms are available at the Parish Office during opening hours or by sending an email to: parrocca.iklin@maltadiocese.org
2. **Required Document:** Please submit a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate along with the completed registration form. Also a consent form to receive the Sacraments needs to be signed by both parents in the presence of the parish priest or his representative.
3. **Submission:** Completed forms and the Baptismal Certificate should be submitted to the Parish Office by 31 July.

The Role of the Family

Parents and guardians are the first and most important educators of faith for their children. Your active involvement is invaluable to your child's spiritual formation. We gently encourage families to foster a home environment rich in faith, including:

- **Family Prayer:** Simple daily prayers, such as grace before meals or bedtime prayers, can significantly deepen a child's relationship with God.
- **Sunday Mass Attendance:** Regular participation in Sunday Mass is a cornerstone of our Catholic faith and an essential part of preparing for the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation. It is where we gather as a community to be nourished by the Word of God and the Eucharist.

Your witness and participation are the most powerful lessons your children will receive.

Programme Expectations

For the benefit of all children and to ensure a fruitful learning experience, we kindly ask for:

- **Regular Attendance:** Consistent presence at catechesis sessions allows children to build upon their learning and develop a sense of community. Sessions are held on Mondays and Thursdays, excluding State School Holidays, between 1630 and 1715 hrs. The Centre opens at 1615 for games. Yr 1 children attend only on Mondays.
- **Positive Participation:** Encouraging your child to engage actively in discussions and activities will enhance their understanding and enjoyment of the programme.

Contact Information

Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office:

- **Phone:** Fr Keith Bonnici, Parish Priest
- **Email:** parrocca.iklin@maltadiocese.org or keith.bonnici@maltadiocese.org
- **Office Hours:** Saturdays from 0715 – 1030 hrs.

We look forward to welcoming your children and journeying with your families in faith!