FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

FAMILY & SACRAMENTS

"We love because he first loved us."
(1 John 4:19)

- **Are you thinking about getting married in the Catholic Church?**
- **Are you thinking about having your child baptised?**
- **Would you like to know a little more about the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Reconciliation, and Confirmation?**

Formation & Mission

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Marriage and family life has a special focus in the Church and there are many ways that the Church seeks to recognise, celebrate and support the varied family dynamics of the world today from the nuclear to the wider, extended family unit.

The Sacrament of marriage is a true gift from God. We are called by God to marriage and God blesses the relationship. Marriages take place in front of family and friends and the Church Community to not only declare the love between the couple to the world but also to request the community offer their ongoing support.

"Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not exist on its own ways. Love bears all things, believes all things, endures all things. Love never fails."
(1 Corinthians 13: 4-7)

Marriage Preparation

Marriage preparation is key to ensuring that marriages begin healthily and remain not only functional but life-giving. Such preparation offers the space for couples to reflect on the commitment involved. It is intended to be an affirming experience, where couples develop a deeper understanding of one another and discern their readiness to enter married life. If you are recently engaged and/or are seriously considering being married in the Church you can find out more about marriage preparation by getting in touch with your local parish priest or contacting Deacon Rob Wareing who is our diocesan lead for Marriage and Family Life. Email: marriage@diocesehn.org.uk Tel: 07841 530991

Further information is also available on the diocesan website: **https://bit.ly/DHNMarriage**.

Marriage Preparation through Marriage Care (marriagecare.org.uk)

There are four options for marriage preparation either face-to-face or online; each option provides the structure, content, venues and cost and links to how to search and book a course. A Certificate of Attendance, which will be required by your home parish, is awarded at the end of each of the options. A helpful note on 'Guidance for couples marrying within the Catholic Church' can be found on the same Marriage Preparation page.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

Baptism | First Holy Communion and Reconciliation | Confirmation

The Sacraments of Initiation take place within the local parish community. Each Sacrament requires a period of preparation and formation involving parents or the child and, at times, both.

Baptism and its preparation will take place within the parish. If you would like to have your child baptised then you will need to get in touch with your parish priest.

First Holy Communion and Reconciliation and **Confirmation** preparation takes place in partnership between the local Catholic Schools and the local parish. Forthcoming opportunities to begin the preparation programmes are often well advertised via the schools and parishes a few weeks before the preparation courses begin. However, do get in touch with your parish priest if you would like further information about their Sacramental programmes.

If your local programme sessions are run through the local Catholic school but your child doesn't attend there, please speak with the parish priest to explore possible alternative pathways.

If you would like more information on...

- Guidelines for each of the Sacraments of Initiation
- Resources for parents
- Suggested programmes to follow
- Training to be a catechist

Visit:**https://bit.ly/DHNFamilyAndSacraments** or contact our Formation & Mission Team (see details on the back page).

The diocesan website has a helpful search tool to help you find churches local to you and their contact details. Visit: **https://bit.ly/DHNFindAChurch**.

Or scan the QR code.

SCAN ME

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FAMILY & SACRAMENTS

SO, YOU WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?

Here at the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle, our friendly Formation & Mission team would be delighted to help you explore formation opportunities based on family and sacraments.

We'd love to chat with you, so please call us:

0191 243 3316
0737 593 4713

Our office hours are
8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri

Drop us an email:
adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk

Amy Cameron: Director of Formation & Mission
Mark Hindmarsh: Formation & Mission Team Leader
Emma Wynne: Formation & Mission Development Officer
Amy McDonagh: Formation & Mission Administrator

For further areas of Formation & Mission
in the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle please scan the QR code or visit:
https://bit.ly/DHNFormation_Mission_Leaflets