FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CHILDREN'S LITURGY - NOTES FROM DISCUSSION

These notes were made following a discussion, and those currently working with First Holy Communion or Children's Liturgy sharing the resources and aproaches that currently work for them.

1. Our purpose and focus areas

The main aims of the programme are:

- Understanding faith: Helping children understand the programme and recognise that they are loved by God.
- Understanding the sacraments: Developing children's knowledge and understanding of the sacraments.
- Realising potential: Encouraging children to recognise their potential and use their God-given gifts.
- Understanding the Mass: Explaining the importance of the Mass, its links to the Gospel of the week, and the significance of Baptism.

2. Keeping children engaged

A variety of interactive and creative approaches can help maintain children's interest and participation.

Ideas which are currently being used in parishes:

- Singing.
- Involving children through reading and participation.
- Role-play activities.
- Delivering information in short, manageable sections ("bite-sized" bits).
- Godly Play using props.
- Prayer pen pals (prayer sponsors).
- Ice-breakers.
- Question-and-answer sessions with the parish priest.
- Incorporating games.

3. Shared resources

The following were recommended by catechists in the session:

- Stories of the Blessed Sacrament Book
- My First Holy Communion Book
- Friendship with Jesus – Pope Benedict XVI Book
- I Belong Book
- SDC First Holy Communion Website
- My Little Missal Book
- Jesus Comes to Me Book
- Youcat for Kids / First Holy Communion Book
- Heart Speaks to Heart – Diocese of Leeds Online workbook
- Making Things Right / Call to His Supper Book
- CAFOD Website