

Diocese of Leeds - Catechesis and Religious Education Service
Collation of questionnaire on Preparation and Catechesis for
First Sacraments: Eucharist and Reconciliation/Schools

1. Number of replies from schools: 35

Catechists: Who is involved?

2. For the catechists involved, please give the following details:

Number	What is their experience and training?	How many years have they been involved?
4	Courses/ children of their own	7/7/18/18 years
2	Eucharistic minister/ courses at HH	3/2
2	Deputy head & RE coordinator Class teacher	1 5
2		3/3
11	Parents/teaching assistants	1-6years
1	teacher	2
5	Child Protection Officer (2) Head Teachers, Parish Priest, Deputy Head CCRS	6, 3, 4, 4, 5
5	4 Teachers, 1 retired parishioner	3, 10, 10, 3, 0
1	Teacher	14
2	Deputy Headteacher, Teacher	6, 1
4	In-house INSET (3), Parish training and development of prog at St Josephs	1, 3, 5, 15
1	Primary teacher, former RE co-ordinator	3 yrs present school but 9 yrs total
6	Head, Deputy Head, 2 Parish Catechists, PP, CARES	2, 2, 4, 2, 2, 2
8	HT, DHT, 5 teachers, nursery nurse	All x 2
3	Class teacher for majority of children, former teacher/volunteer, RE co-ord/class teacher	15, 15, 1
N/A	All preparation and catechesis for the First Sacraments is carried out through the parish.	
3	Teacher, RE Subject leader, L.S.A.'s	8, 3, 3
3	CTC course	4, 1
1	Teacher	14

3. In what ways are catechists helped and supported?

- Parish priest/year 3 teacher
- Deacon supports and liaises with school
- Parish priestx4
- Parish priest, School support
- 6 meetings in school/yr to plan, deliver and evaluate the programme. Attended by PP, catechists & co-ordinator. Team plans together & supports each other.
- Courses, resources, visits from parish priests, special services in parish churches
- Work alone and liaise with parish priest to arrange services
- Group discussions in school, working with Fr.
- Priest holds parents' meetings
- PPs and HT help lead & organise the parental meetings. Catechists in the parishes liaise with school and instruct children who don't attend the school
- Work in a team to help and support each other weekly. Jointly plan dates etc
- Planning meetings. Resources ready & prepared
- N/A to 2 schools.
- School helps in giving out letters, collecting information, staff attending parents' meetings, organising service for First Reconciliation and Mass for First Communion eg. music, readers prepared, booklets, staff attendance at services and party.
- Informal meetings; shared preparation for teaching.
- RE Coordinator and Parish Priest involved in meetings and support preparation of children; I Belong books purchased by parish and presented at Mass.

4. What further help and support for catechists and clergy is needed?

- A diocesan policy for consistency
- Families presenting unbaptised children for all sacraments at once
- Scheme produced by Leeds Diocese
- Train parish catechists not on weekends
- Package for parents
- Information about schemes/support material available
- We would be interested in attending any further training and hearing of new developments/ programmes
- Would prefer process to involve parish
- Ideas for the programme; resources available
- Handout/information/newsletter from Diocese with suggested ideas/tips eg attendance at Mass requirements/suitable liturgies. Short training programme/meeting
- The programme returned to school 3 years ago as insufficient catechists could be found in the parish. Training for potential parish catechists. Please do not ask teachers to attend weekend training - work/life balance.
- N/A for 3 schools

- Meeting with 'local' catechist to share good practise and resources; shared preparation for teaching.
- The preparation programme has been established for a number of years and is well organised, it runs smoothly and appears to be successful, so I feel that at this time further help and support is not needed.

Preparation: What programmes are used?

5. What catechetical programme/s do you use?

- We celebrate the Eucharist x 4
- I Belong x 2
- I Belong/Here I Am in school
- Parish priest's own/God's Greatest Gift
- God's Greatest Gift x 4
- Called to His Supper/Making Things Right x 2
- My First Book of Forgiveness/ Communion
- A mixture of several 'schemes' & HIA in school
- We devised our own building on themes and ideas from 'The Gold Book' and Here I Am
- Called to His Supper & Worksheets provided by PP

6. What are the benefits/good points & drawbacks/gaps of the programme?

Benefits/Good Points	Drawbacks/Gaps
<p>I BELONG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple for parent's and children to follow. • Each theme has old and New Testament story related to child's experience. • Child can write, draw, stick in pictures to make it their own. • Child friendly • Attractive • Starts from home/life/school experiences and leads on to Liturgy of the Word etc and the real meaning of the sacraments • Very child friendly • Each chapter is detailed and prepares the children thoroughly using a variety 	<p>I BELONG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine for 7-9 year olds need suitable materials for older children too young for RCIA • Lots of work to be covered in each chapter and therefore relies on parental support & encouragement (quite heavily) which often means you are chasing children/parents to catch up or complete work • As the programme is so detailed at times, 2 hours per week is needed to deliver it. This means other RE lessons are taught at a reduced level.

<p>of approaches to keep them engaged</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on a large number of stories from the Old and New Testament. • I feel it gives the children an excellent preparation for both Reconciliation and Eucharist. • As children are set homework it helps the parents get more involved and creates a home/school/parish partnership. 	
<p>WE CELEBRATE THE EUCHARIST (Gold Book)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive • Achievable amount of work • Appropriate level • Clear instructions and advice for catechists • Tried and tested • Gives a structure to follow • Acts as a keepsake/record for children 	<p>WE CELEBRATE THE EUCHARIST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you look hard enough you can always find draw backs • Outdated-Photos 'passe' x2 • Tasks a bit dull and not particularly challenging
<p>GOD'S GREATEST GIFT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy format • Fun and interesting • Easy to follow if have to catch up at home • Ideas for role play, activities • When used with PP's own gives a good grounding • Programme allows number of people to be involved but continuity & progress maintained. • Workbook/support materials for catechists & parents • Clear structure • Modern, but in line with Church's teaching • Clear simple worksheets • Accessible to parent/child 	<p>GOD'S GREATEST GIFT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None obvious • Too much colouring in • Not enough detail on reconciliation. Additional material used & more time spent on it. • Time scale is not followed - we condense our programme from 12 to 3/5 months • Catechists need to be secure in knowledge to make most of programme • Needs to mix and match • Colouring can become an issue • Focus on reconciliation could be much stronger and linked to the sacrament • Links with HIA topic •

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good opportunity for renewal for parents....non threatening • Takes participants back to the very beginning • Easily adaptable to suit needs of participants • Can be used within a multi faith setting so inclusive • Encourages parental involvement and commitment 	
<p>CALLED TO HIS SUPPER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content good for discussion • Parents like content • Children enthusiastic about THEIR books • Structured scheme 	<p>CALLED TO HIS SUPPER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too much colouring in • American language
<p>SCHOOL BASED HIA/SEVERAL SCHEMES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuity • Children in school • Over the years the teachers have refined their resources and activities keeping what was purposeful • Good quality input because trained teachers delivering the programme 	<p>SCHOOL BASED HIA/SEVERAL SCHEMES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little involvement from parish • Dependent upon teacher's time • Time commitment • Parish not involved other than PP
<p>MY FIRST BOOK OF FORGIVENESS/COMMUNION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple and at the child's level • Reasonably priced • Easily translates between home and school 	<p>MY FIRST BOOK OF FORGIVENESS/COMMUNION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We tend to supplement the gaps and use scripture to back up gaps

7. Do you use any additional resources for First Eucharist and/or First Reconciliation? If so please give details.

- School uses Here I Am
- Supply each child with Mass book
- Parts of 'Here I am'- + Church documents on the sacraments
- Artefacts and videos (CAFÉ Baptism, Baptism Fr Bulbeck)
- Refer to 'Here I am'
- Numerous additional resources we've gathered over the years
- School made resource/activity sheets
- Bibles; Reconciliation Liturgy

- N/A for 3 schools
- We Celebrate the Eucharist
- Reconciliation (Redemptorist Publication)
- The parish presents the children with medals on the day before the Eucharist celebration blessed by the Parish Priest. The children also receive a certificate.

8. Is preparation based more in the parish or in the school?

- Parish, school works closely with coordinator
- Equal x 2
- Parish x 6
- Preparation sessions in school, parents meetings and masses in parish
- Mainly in school
- School x 9
- School with home involvement and parish celebrations along the way.
- Parish with support from the school, particularly in terms of children's prep for the various liturgies and Eucharists
- Almost 100% in school
- Based in school (weekly lessons) + 3 meetings at church
- School - The priest attends each week with the parish catechists and we group the children for discussions.
- Both with support from home

9. At what time of the year does the preparation begin and when are the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation celebrated?

Beginning of Preparation	First Reconciliation	First Eucharist
After Christmas	March	June
January	End April	June
Jan	Week before Easter	June
Jan	Lent	May
Nov-	March	may
January	Lent	May/June
December	March	May
January	March	May
January	March	May
November	Lent	Mid-May
February	To	June
November	February	June
October	March	May
October	April/May	May/June
		Christ the King
	Dec - Feb	March - May

Feb/March	May	End of May
January	February	May
January	Lent	Post Easter (Going forth :Pentecost)
October	Thursdays/ Saturdays of Lent in small groups	May/June
Nov	March	May

10. How are the preparation sessions organised? (how often/where/with whom/what is the format)

- Small groups (4/6) with catechist/whole group/ meeting with parents = every 4 weeks in school, follow programme format
- Thursday 3:30-4:30 weekly in school/Sat 6:10-7:00pm in parish
- Weekly after school/in church - 1 hour
- Term time 9:30-10:30 am sat 3 or 4 groups of children
- 1 session per fortnight after school, 2 catechists, lesson/discussion, Gold Book, parent meetings in Church
- Weekly, teacher & PP prayer, recap, next session, end with prayer
- Taught lesson for Yr. 3 pupils who wish to make FHC, in school weekly. Session in church weekly to learn about church and contents
- 1 hr/week in school with yr3 teacher & priest, 1 hr/week group of older children in school with parish catechist - separate from large group. Every Sun am & children's liturgy, they bring their books and place them on to the altar steps at the Offertory.
- Parent meetings (6) and children's liturgies
- Weekly 1 hr meetings after school, in school for 6 weeks, read gold book and explain sacraments
- We meet with parents, as a group, at the start of the programme and share the prog with them. They sign the enrolment certificate at this stage. Father Michael talks to them about our responsibilities
- By teacher, fortnightly, lunchtime in school
- Weekly - at least 1 hour - usually on a Friday morning with staff & volunteers either in classroom or prayer room at school
- Based in Y3 classroom; weekly lessons (children & catechists with parents invited to join in/observe); children sit in circle on carpet for discussion/prayers etc. Sit at tables for written work.
- Children & adults receive instruction after Mass on Sun mornings
- Each Mon straight after school (3pm). 8 weeks for Reconciliation, 8 weeks for Eucharist. In the school with staff (8). Whole group introduction - small group work with adult - whole group conclusion - work to complete at home.
- Within school time, twice a week once programme starts. Run by year 3/4 teacher.
 - Weekly for children, with 5 parent evening sessions; led by Parish Priest, catechist and outside speakers.

- Each chapter introduced in class and the majority of work is completed in school. Each week one to two hours of work is completed and a homework activity is set most weekends.
- N/A for 2 schools

11. During the preparation period are there any celebrations for the children during the Sunday Eucharist? If so how many?

- 3 masses + 2x First Eucharist Sunday
- 6
- Presentation to Parish
- Display board/bidding prayers and read at 5/6 masses/ explain to parish what they are doing
- Children attend weekly mass, special masses, processions and celebrations eg children lead Stations of the Cross.
- Enrolment Sunday, 1/2 term family masses led by school, weekly Sunday children's liturgy with parish catechists.
- Presentation, reconciliation service, family FC, group FC
- Enrolment Mass; Mass in prep for Reconciliation; Celebration Mass in prep for sacrament of Eucharist (week before sacrament in each case). Parish mass of celebration (day after FHC Day)
- None as far as aware
- Presentation Mass at start of programme; Penitential Mass before First Reconciliation
- Enrolment Mass; children & parents invited to attend weekly masses (CLOW at 10 am mass); First Communion Mass.
- Each Sun during prep period children offer their prep work in the offertory procession.
- Presentation - 2 Parishes; Penitential Rite - 2 Parishes
- Welcome Mass in January. Family Mass each month. First Holy Communion families encouraged to attend.
 - Children receive their I belong books during a weekend Mass of their choosing. Children encouraged to attend Mass each week for a blessing.
 - N/A for 2 schools

12. What preparation takes place for Reconciliation and how is this sacrament celebrated?

- Follow programme (GGG) guide, reinforced in school, talked through a 'confession', taught Act of sorrow, open confession in church, light a candle, parents encouraged to receive

- Taught along side Eucharist, Sat am in church, listen to readings and music while waiting to receive the sacrament
- I belong, celebrated in church, Sat am, open confession, shown box on tour of Church
- Extra priest joins them
- Preparation in school about how and what is expected, celebrated I Church
- What is going to happen is discussed, relevant prayers talked through
- Within FHC programme, at church with parents/teachers/catechists
- Making Things Right, role play, practice in church. Penitential Services Fri pm & Sat am face to face on altar steps with PP
- Prep in school (HIA), visits to church for practice, sacrament celebration Sats in Lent. Families escort children to church at usual parish times.
- Until this year, sacrament takes place on a Sat. all families and staff attend. Children go forward with parent, and child goes to Father on altar; parent lights candle from Paschal candle and keeps it alight as child goes back to place to say Penance. We have a little service all together in Church
- Children go to normal Sat am 'session'
- It's part of the combined programme not a separate preparation. The sacrament is celebrated in the particular parishes during Lent - particular First Rec. days are agreed with the clergy.
- 2 lessons in preparation (from scheme); parents & children invited to come to church during school time for a short liturgical service and for children to make their first sacrament of Rec.
- Celebration in school assembly after First Confession
 - As part of the programme. Parents are informed once children are 'ready'. They then take them to church.
 - Whole school focus
 - Parent evening session
 - Parent/child working on books. (Post school/evening session)
 - 2 Reconciliation evenings.
 - Chapters from I Belong
 - Visit to Confessional. 'Practise' session
 - Parents encouraged to mark the occasion with an appropriate gift/certificate.
 - N/A for 2 schools

The children: What age and support?

13. At what age do the children make their First Sacraments?

- Year 3 x 7
- Older children welcome x 1
- Yr 3 x 11
- From Y3 (7+) x 3

- 7-8

14. How do you support any children with special needs?

- One to one basis in lunch hour, PP instructed a child at home with parents
- Extra 1-1 sessions/ work with parents
- Differentiated work
- Parents stay
- One to one support in sessions/support of parents
- Extra help given
- One on one support from home + needs met within lessons and service
- Small group, one on one
- Small group with parents
- Work with parents and address their individual needs
- In consultation with the Parish Priest
- As part of the group
- Discuss the issues sensitively with parents and PP and agree how to include in programme and if modifications need to be made.
- Additional help given for written work. Liaison with parents. SN children treated equally.
- Trained teachers delivering programme
- Ensure that they know what to do with dignity. Help parents to support their children
 - Use of assistants as necessary
 - L.S.A.; Parent
 - Support assistants; additional time / practices as appropriate for the child.
 - N/A for 2 schools

Home/School/Parish Links

15. In what way is the parish priest/assistant priest/deacon/parish sister involved in the process?

- PP leads meetings
- Helps arrange dates and programme/ leads parents meetings/supportive of catechists
- Looks in
- Deacon involved in organisation
- 4 meetings with parents
- PP works closely, discuss readings and prayers
- Parish Priest at FHC prep weekly, school visits, parent meetings
- Priests, sisters and catechists form teams and plan classes
- Parish priests (2) attend all meetings, visit schools and family homes
- Parish priest attends planning meetings with parents and catechists

- Fr. is involved at various stages- through meetings, masses, meeting with children in church and school etc
- P.P runs the whole process with support from the school when needed
- Meeting parents; at least 2 'chats' with children
- Priests meet children from their parishes and sometimes visit the prep classes. Priests attend and speak at the parents' meetings.
- PP attends some lessons and helps to lead the lessons. Jointly leads parents' meetings. Liaison with HT and catechists to plan dates and programme. Leads sac of Rec service and First Euch celebration.
- PP meets parents 4 times during preparation. PP advises on programme
- Fr is a weekly presence at FHC preparation. He comes into school to meet children & attends parents' meetings. He liaises closely with school & catechists
- Visits during preparation. 'Checks' parents are playing their part. If they aren't his role is to find out why and then deal with the issue. He has the final say as to child's appropriateness to complete programme.
- Parish priest works with and alongside Headteacher. It seems to work well.
- Parish priest visits the children regularly in school and encourages them to go for blessings at a weekend mass. He visits the children at home prior to receiving Eucharist. All Year 3 children receive a blessing during school masses. Parish priest leads the 3 parents' meetings.
- N/A for 2 schools

16. In what way is the Parish Community involved in the process?

- Prepare after mass gathering for children
- Celebrate mass/ say prayers/supportive
- Aren't - used to give photos to prayer sponsors and put up in Church but stopped because think it is against Child protection guidelines
- Tea party/ Prayer sponsors
- Kept informed of progress using display board in church, Fatima group met with them to prepare a Mass, social afternoon, write certificates, and prepare ribboned medals, communion breakfast
- Parish welcomed at all activities. Prayer sponsors used, parents of previous FC class provide breakfast
- Parish catechists involved, community at 1/2term family masses
- Community prayer, prayer cards with children's names, photos displayed of children, prayer sponsors. Parish provides gift box to all FHC candidates + card + food.
- Parish prays- children's names on display
- Through Parish celebrations and more directly through their catechists when children not at our school are involved
- Prayer Sponsors, Eucharistic celebrations including enrolment mass
- None until actual celebration (perhaps prayerfully)

- Children are presented to the community who are asked to pray for and support them. Photos are displayed in church. Prayer sponsors are sought.
- Children & families welcomed to parish. Read/look at display in church. Pray for children/families. Welcome people to the parish
 - Asked to act as prayer sponsors
 - Children's photos in church (x2)
 - Photographs of catechists in church
 - Parish provides 'parents' books
 - Take part in preparation ceremonies
 - Informed at 'odd' points
 - First Holy Communion Masses; *Going Forth*
 - I Belong books receive at a Parish Mass
 - Parish choir sings at Masses
 - Two meetings with parents are held in church.
 - Communion breakfast held in Parish hall.
 - N/A for 2 schools

17. In what way is the school/s involved in the process?

- Gathering and meetings take place in school
- Sessions taught in school/ teachers attend parents meetings and Masses
- Year 3 teacher covers same work in class
- Celebrate mass on Feast of Corpus Christi / teaching Eucharist/Reconciliation through 'Here I Am'
- Weekly meetings
- Year 3 teacher liaises, reinforces work at school, school used for meetings, provides all resources and corresponds with parents
- Letters sent out, lessons taught in RE class to support catechists. Overview planned.
- Prep programme based in school, parents programmes held in school, candidates prepared in school
- 2 teachers carry out process
- Present children in school, Hold celebration in school, staff attend mass of 1st Communion, school present family with DVD
- Class time allocated for Fr. to come into school to work with children. Hymns and readings practiced in school, teachers supported by attending on the Communion Sundays
- Acknowledgement of children preparing, to whole school; consultations with PP/Catechist; prep of liturgies and eucharists and planning
- School provides the whole course/materials/support etc
- Jointly co-ordinates the process with the parishes

- Pray for children & their families. Make displays of photos/work. Facilitates meetings/communicates dates/organises services, photographers, celebrations etc. Checks that work is being covered & completed.
- School gives prominence to the preparatory sessions, announcing them at assemblies, practising practical details in school. HT assists close to the celebration with rehearsals.
- Delivers whole programme
- Runs main body of programme (x2)
- See question 6 (2nd bullet)
- The children in the parish who do not attend the school are prepared by another catechist and receive the Eucharist at the same time. We liaise closely throughout the preparations. The children are invited to practise the Thursday before the Eucharist Mass where the Parish Priest gives them unblessed bread.

18. What preparation, help and support is given to parents?

- Sessions with PP, speak to coordinator any time
- Meetings with PPx2
- Monthly meetings with catechists
- Not a lot!
- Support from priest and teacher
- Meetings, parents book, one on one talks with parish priest if concerns.
- Meetings, encouraged to celebrate sacraments with children.
- Through formal/informal meetings- invitations to see Fr. if anyone needs direct spiritual support
- Programme organised and delivered by PP over whole of prep period
- PP meets them at beginning to explain process
- Information is regularly sent home together with 'tasks' encouraging parents & children to discuss or undertake some activity together. The school runs a series of meetings for parents which is really a support programme running alongside the children's programme.
- Discussion about the sacraments. Dates etc communicated clearly. Question & answer sessions at parents' meetings. Parents invited to join lessons. Practical help (books, certificates, ties etc ordered if needed)
- Parents' meetings 4 times during programme.
- Pre-enrolment meeting with PP and catechists. Pre-Rec & Pre-Euch consultation meetings, discussion, review of programme. Encouragement to receive Reconciliation with a visiting priest the same day as their children. Enquirers' Course.
- Meetings, discussions, leaflets, booklets. Selection of dresses to borrow. Parents welcome; invited to discuss any concerns/issues with PPs/teachers/ HT
- Parents' book available
- Child takes workbook home to discuss with parents and for parents to 'join in'.
- Staff/ parish priest available for support.

- 5 parent evenings and any additional help that parents/headteacher feel is necessary
- 3 meetings for parents: outline of programme; Reconciliation; Eucharist.
- Letters are regularly sent to parents updating them on preparations
- Children record in Homework diaries what their weekly task is to be completed at home.
- N/A for 2 schools

19. What further support for parents is needed?

- Booklet on how to help their child during and after preparation
- Sadly parents know little about the sacraments and this would be an opportunity to help them
- None x2
- Additional support materials to help parents with their faith
- Ask parents
- Booklet of diocesan guidelines
- Parents would need to tell you this! Parents have always expressed their satisfaction with prog to us but there may be more we could do as always.
- Lots of encouragement and positive reassurance for those who feel separated from the Church or are ill at ease because they rarely attend
- Parent friendly leaflet. Suitable video
- Encouragement & motivation to continue attending Mass after FHC
- Parents are often learning alongside children during the sessions. Some additional, easy to read support materials to explain faith would be good. The range of understanding & practice is v. wide.
- Perhaps more parish help in helping them prepare. But who will do it?
- To keep the commitment going
- Their own personal circumstances
- I think the parents are supported well. If they have any concerns they are encouraged to speak to class teachers or Parish Priest.
- N/A for 2 schools

20. Is there any follow-up to First Sacraments preparation and celebration?

- Mass of thanks giving about 1 month later followed by Faith supper in hall, opportunity to thank everyone
- Through 'Here I am' programme, school attendance at Mass
- Mass celebrated in school/ join in Mass with PP and catechists/Gold books presented and party afterwards
- 1 further session after First Communion
- None at present
- Final lessons in school- Thanksgiving mass

- Evaluation of programme by team
- Thanksgiving mass for all involved - including prayer sponsors
- Thanksgiving mass and party for children
- Through regular RE sessions, class masses etc. In Yr. 4 children are invited to train as altar servers- we usually have a big take-up and a parish catechist trains them in the Autumn term.
- In school celebration
- We have a Thanksgiving Mass about a month after FHC days and the programme continues until the summer break (about 6 weeks after FHC)
- Celebration at church/school afterwards. Congratulations on school newsletter & in assembly. Try to encourage children to continue going to mass...
- Children take part in May & Corpus Christi processions
- Children are presented back to rest of school at a school mass some time after initial sacrament, followed by a party.
- Going Forth
- Normal school collective worship ie Reconciliation twice a year; mass every 3rd week
- Photographs/ video / DVD of the celebration can be ordered.
- Encouraged to attend Mass each week.
- Receive Eucharist at school masses
- Several children choose to become altar servers.
- N/A for 2 schools

21. Any further comments?

- Programme for Teenagers
- Everything runs smoothly
- Problems arise between neighbouring parishes when prep is in one and celebration for some is in another under 'parish' family considerations needs defining
- Joint preparation (parish-home-school) works very well at our school. 4/5 dedicated people (and more offers from staff). Theresa Laverick has attended and led a parents' mtg which worked really well and I am v. grateful for this support.
- The First Sacrament preparation has continually changed because of changes in PP and each PP having very different approaches. Is there any general advice from the diocese?
 - System seems to work better in our parish when school takes the lead; lack of others to do it
 - How to encourage teachers to get involved!
 - Up to 70 children each year receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist and I feel that our preparations are well organised and run smoothly and the children are thoroughly prepared by Home/School/Parish links.