

My Kidstime



COMMUNION SPECIAL

HOW TO ENSURE YOUR
CHILD'S COMMUNION DAY
GOES WITHOUT A HITCH

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WELCOME TO

My KidsTime

COMMUNION SPECIAL

With 2 Communions, 1 Confirmation (and another one this year) under my belt, here are some of my top tips for making sure everything goes without a hitch.

Once you've the outfits sorted and transport arranged, then you're really looking at these key areas for the day:

Hair – Boys' hair might be easy but everyone looks at the back of your daughter's hair as they go through church and whatever hair style you go for, you want it to last for the photos and the rest of the day.

Feeding everyone – if you're hosting at home then my top tips are to prep as much in advance and ask for help so you're not doing it all yourself. I bought in some pre made party food nibbles to save time and have lovely finger food to serve when we got home, then I just made some hot options myself.

Making sure the house is looking

as nice as it can – you don't have to spend a fortune but there are definitely some key areas to focus on. Check out **page 5** for some tips.

Entertainment – the bouncy castle is the popular option for sure, even the adults enjoy a bounce now and again!

Cake – the cake is the centrepiece of the party table and baking your own is a great way to cut back on costs. Help is at hand on **page 12**.

Whether you are hosting your 1st First Holy Communion or your 5th I am hoping you will find some new tips and wisdom within these pages. We cover everything from hairstyles to party food, quick fix home improvement tips to the ultimate Communion party checklist!

We hope your child has a wonderful day and that these tips help ensure it goes smoothly. It really is one of life's truly memorable family occasions.

Michelle

21 TRICKS AND TIPS TO SPRUCE UP YOUR HOME

FOR COMMUNION DAY OR A SPECIAL OCCASION



We have teamed up with **M&S Ireland** to bring you 21 tips and tricks to spruce up your home for communion day or indeed any special occasion, that don't involve lots of time or money!

Making simple changes can have a real impact on your home. You don't need to spend a fortune, and remember any changes you make will

be enjoyed beyond the day itself!

Sprucing Up Your Home Starts Outside

Next time you come home, have a critical look at how your house

appears on the outside. If you find it lacking there are a few simple tips and tricks to spruce it up and have it looking perfect in time for any special occasion.



THROW A STRESS-FREE COMMUNION PARTY AT HOME

1 Add some plants in pots to either side of the front door or some pretty hanging baskets. Remember these don't need to be real, M&S have a range of stylish artificial plants that look like the real thing.

2 Clean the windows and have them sparkling on the day or if your budget stretches to it, get them cleaned professionally along with the gutters and fascia too.

3 Add a new blind or curtains to windows for colour. This will smarten up the look of your home both from the outside and inside.

4 Powerhose the drive, entrance path and patio to

get them looking clean and smart. If you don't own your own, see if you can borrow one or hire one for a day. Another top trick for getting rid of moss or green, is to cover the area with washing powder and leave it to wash away in the rain. Your patio and paths will soon look and smell like new!

5 Cut the grass and trim any hedges or plants that need cutting back both in the front and back gardens.

6 Add bark chips to areas that are planted with trees or flowers, this immediately makes them look like they have

been newly planted up!

7 Polish door handles and letterboxes and have them shining for your special day.

8 Painting can be expensive so if your house is not due for a new paint job just yet, you could touch up any scratches or scrapes and paint your front door, garden walls / fences, pillars, wall caps and gates yourself instead to give your home a newly painted look.



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48 SIMPLY STUNNING FIRST COMMUNION HAIRSTYLES FOR GIRLS

With First Holy Communion season nearly upon us, it's time to get thinking about those final details – and one of these is how to tame your child's tresses. Take some inspiration from these simply stunning First Communion hairstyles for girls that range from simple and classic to wondrous up-dos.

When my daughter made her First Holy Communion last year, I spent ages thinking about details like the dress and what food

we'd serve afterwards, and I didn't once think about her hairstyle – that was until every other mother at school started talking about it! I had completely missed the boat on this

one, although (luckily!) it transpired that my daughter only wanted to wear her hair down with a "grown up and glittery" hair clip. Phew! We picked up some very simple diamanté slide



clips that were perfect for my daughter’s chosen style – she wanted everything very simple – and then I threaded some baby’s breath flowers in for a little something extra. Quick, easy and surprisingly stress-free... all of which is exactly what you’re looking for on the day.

Communion Hairstyles: What to Consider

Things to consider in the weeks and months in advance of your child’s First Holy Communion include how long (or short) you and your child want her hair to be, and will that length restrict the communion hairstyles you can choose from; also, factor

in going for a trim (or more sizeable chop) in advance so her hair is in good condition on First Holy Communion day.

If your daughter would prefer an updo, or a more detailed hairstyle, you will want to arrange a trial with your hairdresser, or have lots of practice sessions at home if you’re doing it yourself. The last thing anyone wants is any fighting, tears or stress on the morning of the communion, leaving no time to get ready.

Similarly, make sure that any hair accessories such as a veil, headpiece, bow or hairband are factored in to your decisions around the style.

To save you some of the last-minute panic I had, here are lots of gorgeous ideas for First Communion hairstyles that will suit short, long and everything in between.

[CLICK HERE to continue reading feature](#)

EASY PARTY FOOD IDEAS FOR COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION CELEBRATIONS AT HOME

Communion and Confirmation are lovely celebration days for your child and a great excuse to get the whole family together for a party. If you have decided to celebrate at home, we have some easy, stress free, party food ideas to wow your guests with.

Easy Party Food to Prepare in Advance

The morning of your child's communion or confirmation is not the time to be trying to cook and bake! I am a big fan of preparing in advance.

From nibbles to desserts there are many items that can be prepared in the weeks leading up to the party and frozen to be thawed out the day before or just baked straight from the freezer and most main courses can be made the day before and reheated on the day.



**FREE
CHECKLIST:
FIRST COMMUNION
PARTY IDEAS
FOR BEST HOME
CELEBRATION**

Perfect Freezer-Friendly Party Food Ideas

You could lay out a buffet for when guests arrive and hold off serving up main courses to give you time to meet and mingle with friends and family.

There are a large variety of easy party foods that can be made and frozen in the weeks leading up to big day, perfect for a buffet on the day. Sausage Rolls, Homemade Chicken Goujons & Mini Quiches will go down a treat with younger guests and adults alike and are great to have ready for kids when you get home.

For a healthy option, how about serving up crudité's & breads sticks with shop bought or freshly prepared dips, giving you time to get on with the main course?

And for a more traditional dip, how about hummus, guacamole or salsa? And remember you can buy freshly prepared veggies and dips at your local M&S, perfect to serve to your guests.

Main courses can also be prepared and frozen in advance. My favourite make ahead dish is homemade lasagne & for those wishing to serve up other options,

how about freezer friendly mains such as chicken cacciatore, pulled pork or spicy curry?

Don't forget desserts, pavlova with cream and fresh fruit is easy to pull together and you could ask friends and family to bring along some too.

Order In

For those who may not be as confident in the kitchen or who want wow guests with delicious treats, check out the full range in your local **M&S**.

 **CLICK HERE TO CONTINUE READING THE FEATURE AND FOR MAKE AHEAD PARTY FOOD IDEAS**



HOW TO SAVE MONEY ON THE TRUE COST OF FIRST COMMUNION

30 REASONS TO KNOW YOU'RE THE MUM TO

A FIRST COMMUNION CHILD

Whether you are embarking on the First Communion journey or are an old hand, see if you can identify with our 30 Reasons to know you're the Mum (or Dad) to a First Communion Child!



1 You feel ridiculous calling bouncy castle companies in October as soon as you have the date and then realise that you can't actually get the one you want.

2 It's back to Mass time. When did the "I Believe" change?

3 Or you can no longer get your usual seat at Mass as the 'In Memory'

program kicks in and the numbers in the congregation swell every 4 weeks.

4 Your youngest child spends all day on your knee researching First Communion information with you. Everything from budgeting to communion pinatas!

5 You're stress levels hit the roof mid January once you realise that all the nice outfits/dresses are sold out, and that the super organised parents bought theirs in October!

6 You realise the whole family needs new outfits too which means the dreaded shopping trip with all the kids in tow.



7 You wonder whether to buy the First Communion dress / suit / shoes early or will your child grow out of it before May, or if you buy it too big, will they grow into by May?

8 Panic because you haven't booked a bouncy castle yet and it's the end of January.

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EASY COMMUNION CAKES

FOR YOUR CHILD'S FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



If your child is making their First Holy Communion this year, you will definitely be interested in our ideas for the party's centrepiece – the cake. And if you're making the cake yourself, you will also appreciate that these easy Communion cakes are completely achievable for even a beginner baker!

Often, we see communion cakes looking a bit like mini wedding cakes – with the cost to match. An easy, homemade

communion cake is a great way to cut back on the costs of what can be a very expensive occasion – however, this may fill you with complete panic if you

feel your cake decorating skills are lacking! Rest assured, we have compiled ideas for simple, easy communion cakes that are sure to wow your guests!



Rose Cake

Don't panic, we haven't forgotten that we promised you EASY communion cakes! These roses look amazing and will take your cake to the next level. They are easy to achieve with buttercream and a piping bag, simply click the want more link to find out how to create them. This beauty is from I Am Baker, who made her white layer cake with fudge brownie....yum!



WANT MORE
CLICK HERE TO
10 INSPIRATIONAL
IDEAS FOR
HOMEMADE FIRST
COMMUNION CAKES



Simple Flowers

This cake shows just how effective simple decoration can be. We found this image on Pinterest, but you can create your own with a few simple steps. This easy communion cake is kept simple with plain white icing, then tiny flowers are used to create the outline of a cross. These flowers are created with a flower plunger cutter you can buy online easily – or you could use sprinkles instead to create the same look. Just use a toothpick to gently outline the cross, and then follow that line with your decorations.



Communion Cupcakes

These cupcakes from Mad4Cakes are a great alternative to a traditional communion cake. A simple cupcake and icing, topped with an icing plaque. You can buy sugarpaste in most supermarkets, roll it out quite thin, then use a cookie cutter (or even the rim of a glass) to make your topper. You could then add a cross, a flower, an initial or just some glitter and decorations.

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