



Children's
Sacramental
Preparation

2022



FIRST EUCHARIST And **CONFIRMATION**

Notes: As the candidates in our parish are a bit older than usual, the program will be conducted as one combined preparation instead of two separate programs.

As they are both Sacraments of Initiation and the themes are connected, we are planning to hold the combined family preparation programs over 6 weeks instead of the usual 4 weeks each.

There will be a break of a number of weeks between the Eucharist and Confirmation portions.

There will also be a total of **3 parent preparation** evenings to make the connection between the Baptism and the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.

Eucharist Parent Preparation meetings

7.30pm Thursday 28th April and Thursday 5th May in Santa Maria Hall

235 Great Western Highway Lawson

Family Group Sessions Part 1.

Over 3 Saturday afternoons as follows:

30th April , 14th and 21st May

There will also be an enrolment mass on 30th April and a couple of special preparation masses at 5pm following the family group sessions. These masses are an integral part of the First Communion preparation.

First Communion Rehearsal

Thursday 26th May (*Time/s to be advised*)

First Holy Communion

11am Sunday 29th May

(*an additional mass on the 29th May could be celebrated*)

Parent meeting for Confirmation

7.30pm Thursday 11th August

in Santa Maria Hall

Family Group Sessions Part 2.

Over 3 Saturday afternoons as follows:

13th, 20th and 27th August

Confirmation Rehearsal

Date, venue and time TBA

Confirmation Mass

Thursday 15th September

at Katoomba Catholic Church

Time : TBA



Please note that due to possible Covid density restrictions in the church there may be a limit on the number of guests able to attend.

If you are **new to the community** since January 2021 and your child has already celebrated his /her First Reconciliation elsewhere she/he can be enrolled in the upcoming First Communion-Confirmation Program.

Or if your child has celebrated First Communion elsewhere then he/she can be enrolled in the Confirmation portion of the program.

In the above two cases, **please make an expression of interest** preferably by parish email olon254@gmail.com

Any questions contact Maureen Ryan
Sacramental Coordinator 0403 931 782

The Family Centred formation of children in the Christian faith started when infants or children were welcomed into our Christian/ Catholic community through Baptism.

Baptism is the first step of Initiation into the Christian family where Jesus Christ resides in the heart of the community.

In our tradition we have always accepted children as members of the family of Jesus. We have been guided by the Gospel where Jesus says to "Let the little children come to me;

do not stop them" (Mk:10)



It is in the family where the children first learn about God.

At Baptism, parents are taking the first steps in their commitment to bring up their children in the practice of the faith. The parents are supported in this responsibility by the wider, Christian community including the Church's representatives, namely, the Godparents.

As the children grow they are invited to be further Initiated into the Community of Jesus by preparing for and celebrating the Sacrament of forgiveness- **Reconciliation (Confession)**, followed some time later, by two more steps: the **Sacraments of Initiation**

i.e. First Communion and Confirmation.



Covid Safe

The Parish Based Sacramental program

provides a way that both the community and parent responsibility can continue to support children in their faith journey. At this stage, the parish community support is more extensive.

The parents, attend **one parent evening** for each Sacrament. At these meetings, the parents are given an adult perspective of the meanings of the Sacraments, as well as guidance in passing on the faith and knowledge to their children.

This child friendly, faith formation is done in ways that the children will understand and and be well engaged.

A large part of the preparation involves **small family group meetings**, which are **usually held weekly, for four weeks**. As this time commitment can be difficult in our busy world, so, families are encouraged to prioritise the dates provided. However, should such full participation not be possible, it is advised to postpone enrolment to the following year. In this case, consultation with the Sacramental Co-Ordinator is strongly recommended.



Is Your Child Ready?

Sometimes we question whether our children will understand the concepts involved.

After all, it takes us a lifetime to fully comprehend such mysteries of our faith. It can sometimes be wise to postpone the preparation for a few of the children. But, we need to remember that the program is especially designed for the children and it is only a beginning in a lifetime of faith formation. You are welcome to discuss your child's "readiness" with the Sacramental Co-ordinator.

Note: children in year 4 or above are eligible to enrol in the Reconciliation Program

To enrol your child in the 2022 Reconciliation

preparation please respond by email to

olon254@gmail.com

please include your child's name, school and class.

This year, we are planning to prepare and celebrate all three of the Sacraments. Though it is **not certain what form the preparation may take**. We would like to have **Covid safe Family Sessions** but in the unlikely event of strict covid rules, we **may need** to restrict preparation to individual families in their own homes. In this case, we will provide parent and child friendly, preparation materials for each family. Be assured, whatever the situation that we will give you as much support as possible.

Due to the Covid health regulations **numbers may also be limited in our churches** for the actual celebrations of the Sacraments. In this case, there may be a limit to the number of guests that can attend and/or **more Church services may be held** than are listed in this brochure.

BAPTISM

If your infant or children are **not** Baptised and you would like them to be initiated into the Catholic Church, please contact the Sacramental Co-Ordinator.

RECONCILIATION

Parent Preparation Meeting

7.30pm Thursday 13th October in Santa Maria Hall
253 Great Western H'Way Lawson

Family Group Sessions

Over four weekends (Saturdays or Sundays) from 22nd
Oct until 13th November

Rehearsal

Monday 21st November time TBA

--Sacrament of Reconciliation--

7.00pm Wednesday 23rd November

Families who have enrolled their child in the Reconciliation program will receive further information in term 3