



Children's Sacramental Preparation 2024



CONFIRMATION

During 2024 we are planning to combine some of our celebrations and preparation with St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish at Springwood

Proposed Parent Preparation Meeting/s

Evening meeting/s during the 2 weeks
Commencing Mon 29th April 2024
Time and venue TBA

Proposed Family Group Sessions

Over four weekends (Saturdays or Sundays)
from 18th May to 16th June
(the Kings Birthday weekend will not be included)
venue : Lawson in the Santa Maria Hall
253 Great Western H'Way Lawson

Please note that all our dates for Confirmation are not yet definite as we are awaiting a booking through the Diocesan office.

*It is probable that the actual date for the **Sacrament of Confirmation** will be in June 2024 .*

More information in November 2023

The Confirmation Mass

**will be celebrated
at Springwood Catholic Church
Date and time TBA**

*Note : The date and time for the **rehearsal** TBA and the rehearsal will also be held in Springwood Church.*

Later in 2023 children who celebrated First Communion this year will be invited to enrol

*Please note: there will be **No Celebration of Confirmation in 2025**. We plan to celebrate Confirmation every 2nd year.*

FIRST EUCHARIST

Parent Preparation Meeting

7.30pm Thursday 8th August 2024
Santa Maria Hall
253 Great Western H'Way Lawson

Family Group Sessions

Over four weekends (Saturdays or Sundays)
from 17th August until 15th September 2024
(Fathers day weekend will **not** be included)
venue : Lawson in the Santa Maria Hall
A special preparation mass will be included

First Communion Masses 21st and 22nd September 2024

At Lawson Catholic Church Time: TBA
Rehearsal :Time and date TBA
More information in term 2 2024



New to the community

since January 2023?

Will your child be in
Years 5 or 6 in 2024?

And

Has your child celebrated
First Communion elsewhere?

Or

Has your child has already celebrated
his /her First Reconciliation elsewhere?

Then, you are invited to either

**apply to enrol your child
in the 2024 Confirmation preparation**

Or First Communion preparation.

**Please respond by email to
olon254@gmail.com**

**include your child's name,
address, school and class.**

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.



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 **parent evenings** 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 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, **especially for First Reconciliation**. 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 them and it is only a beginning in their journey of faith formation.

You are welcome to discuss your child's "readiness" with the Sacramental Co-ordinator.

Note: Baptised children currently in Years 2 & 3 or above (i.e. in 2023), are NOW eligible to enrol in the 2024 Reconciliation Program

To enrol your child for Reconciliation in 2024 please contact the Sacramental Coordinator at olon254@gmail.com include your child's name, address, school & class.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

During 2024 we are planning to combine some of our celebrations and preparation with St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish at Springwood

Parent Preparation Meeting/s
Evening meeting/s during the 2 weeks
Commencing Mon 5th February 2024
Time and venue TBA

Family Group Sessions
Over four weekends (Saturdays or Sundays)
from 17th February until 10th March
venue at Lawson in the Santa Maria Hall
253 Great Western H'Way Lawson

Rehearsal
Monday 18th Mar 5.30pm
at St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wednesday 20th March 6.30pm

At St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
Springwood

Families who enrol their child in the Reconciliation program will receive further information mid November 2023

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 Coordinator.

olon254@gmail.com