

ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH MARSFIELD

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Monday, 26th July 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is with great pleasure that the Catholic community of St Anthony's would like to invite your child to begin his/her preparations to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation

We look forward to supporting you and your family as your child prepares to receive this sacrament.

At this stage, we plan to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on either **Friday evening, 29th October and / or during the day on Saturday 30th October**. These details have not yet been finalised. The number of ceremonies and their date and time is totally dependent on the number of candidates that have enrolled, and on the legal capacity of the church at that time. When we have received all the enrolments and after consultation with the Bishop's office you will be informed of the time and date of the Confirmation liturgies. So, please save the dates, both 29th and 30th October. Please do not plan for one day or the other, rather plan for both days. As soon as the dates and times are locked in by the Bishop I will let all who have enrolled know exactly which dates and times Confirmation will be available. Each Mass will have a capping on the number of candidates able to celebrate the sacrament at any one time.

At the time of writing this letter, Bishop Terry Brady has been allocated to our parish to celebrate the liturgies, but this too could change given the increased workload that the bishops will have once lockdown is lifted. Due to the anticipated restrictions in churches post lockdown, I have been informed by the Bishop's office that a maximum of **4 people per family** will be able to attend the Confirmation liturgy, that is, the child, his or her sponsor and 2 others. I know that for many of you this is disappointing as you would like to have many family members and friends gather to celebrate with your child. Instead of focusing on this as a disappointment, I would encourage you to use this limitation as an opportunity for an intimate moment of prayerful focus with your child alone, one that your child will remember as a special moment with his/her parents.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is open to Catholic children who have celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and Eucharist and who are currently in year 6 or above. A copy of your child's Baptism certificate is required on enrolment.

Enrolling in the Confirmation program is a large commitment for the whole family, one which we hope will be nourishing to all members of the family and help you to grow in love of each other and of God. Essential aspects of the Confirmation program take place during the weeks leading up to the celebration of Confirmation. Commitment to all aspects of the program is essential. We appreciate that every family has its own unique story, and life can sometimes be a little complicated. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is a question or a problem.

Parent formation and Information night – Friday 3rd September, at 6.30pm via zoom. This is a “parent only” event. Those who have enrolled in the Confirmation program will be sent an invitation to join this zoom meeting in the days prior to the zoom meeting.

Child and parent “Conversations”- The Confirmation program will be held on Tuesday afternoons or Friday afternoons / evening. Please see the dates below. Please note that the preparation “conversations” take place either side of the school holidays.

For four weeks prior to Confirmation your child **and** at least one parent will participate in a child /parent centered program which focuses on helping your child to prayerfully prepare for Confirmation. Each “conversation” comprises of child /parent centred activities designed to allow you to engage with your child in a way which deepens their understanding of their faith and builds your relationship with your child and with God. Additionally, there are home activities for you to complete, which further your child’s understanding and allows the whole family to come together for prayer, reflection, and ongoing conversation.

As I am writing this letter in the middle of the Covid lockdown, I am not yet entirely sure what the preparation for Confirmation will look like. I hope that the lockdown will have finished by the end of August, and restrictions to gathering lifted, in which case the preparation conversations will take place in the church on Tuesday afternoons from 4pm or on Friday afternoons at 3.30 or 6.15. If the preparation period continues under lockdown or the numbers of people who are allowed to gather in the church makes gathering unfeasible, or there are other restrictions due to covid issues, the children’s preparation will be conducted via zoom. Only time will tell which option will eventuate.

Rehearsal: Friday 22nd October, between 4-7.30pm. You will be advised of your rehearsal time in due course.

Confirmation Masses: Friday 29th October / Saturday 30th October. Time /date to be advised.

Please be aware that we are endeavoring to accommodate your family’s needs during the COVID19 pandemic. As you are well aware, things change very quickly, and we too are bound by the law. My apologies in advance if things need to be changed due to the changing rules around COVID 19. I aim for things to go smoothly, but with COVID 19 there are no guarantees of smooth sailing!

A donation of \$40 towards the running costs of the Confirmation program is greatly appreciated.

If you would like your child to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, please return, (via email if possible rachel@saintanthonys.org.au), your enrolment form, and a scanned copy of your child’s certificate of Baptism by Friday 27th August, 2021. You will be able to make your donation to the Confirmation program after the lockdown has lifted and the office is open again.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Murphy
Pastoral associate and Sacramental Coordinator.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 27th August – enrolments due

Friday, 3rd September at 6.30pm – Parent's information and enrolment night

Friday 22nd October – rehearsal – time to be advised

Friday 29th October / Saturday 30th October – Confirmation liturgies – Time /date to be advised.

Preparation period

TUESDAY CONVERSATIONS AT 4PM.

Tuesday 7th September – conversation 1

20th September -3rd October – School holidays

Tuesday 14th September - conversation 2

Tuesday 5th October - conversation 3

Tuesday 12th October- conversation 4

FRIDAY CONVERSATIONS AT 3.30 or 6.15 pm

Friday 10th September – Conversation 1

Friday 17th September – conversation 2

20th September -3rd October – School holidays

Friday 8th October – conversation 3

Friday 15th October – conversation 4

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH
CONFIRMATION

Enrolment Form 2021

Family Name:

Child's Name:

Date of Birth:

School Attending: Year:.....

Baptism Details: Parish: Date:

Mother's Name: Father's Name:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Phone: Home Mobile

Email Address:

Has your child received the Sacrament of Reconciliation? YES / NO

Church where Sacrament was received:

Has your child received the Sacrament of Eucharist? YES / NO

Church where Sacrament was received:

Name: Signature:

Preferred Conversation time: 1st Preference

Tuesday afternoon / Friday afternoon or Friday evening

2nd Preference

**Please return to the parish office or via email, along with a copy of your child's Baptism certificate, no later than Friday
27th August 2021**