

ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH MARSFIELD

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19th March 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 their preparations to receive their First Eucharist. We look forward to supporting you and your family as your child prepares to receive this sacrament.

This year, the Sacrament of First Eucharist will be celebrated on Saturday, 19th June at 2 pm and 4 pm, and on Sunday, 20th June at 11am.

The sacrament of First Eucharist is open to children who have celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation, and who are currently in year 3 or above.

Enrolling in the First Eucharist 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. This is a commitment which during the preparation period may require you to give less priority to other activities. We greatly appreciate your commitment to supporting your child as they journey towards receiving their First Communion in this way, and hope to support you in this time of joyful preparation. Essential aspects of the first Eucharist program take place during the weeks leading up to your child's reception of their First Eucharist in June. 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 7th May, at 6.30pm in St Anthony's church. This is a "parent only" event.

Rite of Enrolment– Children and their families are invited to attend any of the weekend Masses on 8th/9th May. The children will be presented with their First Eucharist preparation pack at these Masses.

Child and parent "Conversations"- The First Eucharist program will be held on Tuesday afternoons at 4pm or on Fridays at 3.30pm or 6.15pm. Please see the dates below, noting that during the fourth week I will not be available on Friday, so the conversation during that week only will take place on a Wednesday afternoon/evening instead. This will only affect the children in the Friday groups.

Please indicate your preferred time slot on the enrolment form.

For four weeks prior to First Eucharist your child and at least one parent will participate in a child /parent centered program which focuses on helping your child to prayerfully prepare to receive their First Communion. 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.

Presentation of the Lord's Prayer – Children will be presented with the Lord's prayer during the weekend Masses on 29th/30th May

Individual Reconciliation – Children are encouraged to celebrate Reconciliation on any Saturday afternoon (from 5pm) in the weeks prior to receiving their First Eucharist.

Rehearsal: Wednesday 16th June, starting at 4pm, depending on the date and time of your child's First Eucharist Mass

First Eucharist: Saturday 19th June at 2pm or 4pm and Sunday 20th June at 11am

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. Depending on the number of enrolments and the number of people allowed in the church due to COVID 19 restrictions, the number of guests that each child will be able to invite could be limited. We understand that this may be disappointing for some families. We live in challenging times for all.

Attending Mass each Sunday is an important aspect of preparing your child to receive their First Communion and is fundamental to living the Christian life. Registrations prior to each Sunday are required due to the COVID19 pandemic precautions. Please register your intention to attend Masses each Sunday by emailing the names of the people who will be attending Mass, contact phone numbers, and the date and time of the Mass you wish to attend to marsfieldbookings@gmail.com

If you would like to enroll your child for their First Eucharist please complete the enrolment form attached to this letter and return it to the parish office by Wednesday 5th May, 2021. If you did not participate in the Reconciliation program for 2021 at St Anthony's, a copy of his/her Baptism certificate is also required. A donation of \$40 towards the running costs of this program is greatly appreciated.

Please submit your enrolment form, certificate of Baptism (if required) and your contribution to the parish office by Wednesday 5th May, 2021

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Murphy

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, 5th May – enrolments due

Friday, 7th May at 6.30pm – Parent's information and enrolment night

Weekend of 8th/9th May –Rite of enrolment during the Sunday Masses (6pm Vigil, 9am or 6pm)

Weekend of 29th/30th May – Presentations of the Lord's Prayer during Sunday Masses (6pm vigil, 9am or 6pm)

Wednesday 16th June – First Eucharist Rehearsals commencing at 4pm

Saturday 19th June – First Eucharist Mass (2pm and 4pm)

Sunday 20th June – First Eucharist Mass (11am)

Saturdays 5pm- Individual reconciliation on any Saturday during the preparation period prior to First Communion.

Preparation period

Tuesday conversations at 4pm

Tuesday 11th May – conversation 1

Tuesday 18th May- conversation 2

Tuesday 25th May – conversation 3

Tuesday 1st June- conversation 4

Friday conversations at 3.30pm or 6.15pm

Friday 14th May – Conversation 1

Friday 21st May – conversation

Friday 28th May – conversation 3

Wednesday 2 June – conversation 4

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

FIRST EUCHARIST

Enrolment Form 2021

Family Name:

Child's Name:

Date of Birth:

School Attending: Year:

Baptism Details: Parish: Date:.....

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

Church where Sacrament received:

Mother's Name: Father's Name:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Phone: Home Mobile

E-mail:

Declaration: I have read the enrolment letter and commit myself to all the conditions of enrolment.

Name: Signature: (mother).....

Signature: (father).....

Preferred First Communion Mass time: 1st Preference

19th June at 2pm or 4pm, or 20th June at 11am

2nd Preference

Preferred preparation session time

Tuesday 4pm, or Friday 3.30pm or 6.15pm

Please return to the parish office, along with a copy of your child's Baptism certificate if not previously submitted and any donations towards the running costs of the program, by 5th May, 2021