

ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH MARSFIELD

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Thursday, 2nd September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to advise you of the revisions to the Confirmation program that have become necessary as a result of the Covid Pandemic and lockdown.

In the light of the recent Covid pandemic and lockdown, the date for the celebration of Confirmation is not yet determined, however we hope and anticipate that it will be later in the year, possibly as soon as late October / November. However, its also possible that it will be pushed back into 2022. To those who choose to enroll, I will give as much notice as I can as to when the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated. Thank you for being flexible in this respect.

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. 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.

Ideally, the preparation period would occur in the weeks immediately prior to celebrating the sacrament itself. Educationally, this achieves better learning outcomes, and in terms of the celebrations of the Sacrament, the children will find the experience more meaningful and prayerful when this is the case. However, we don't know when the children will be able to celebrate the sacrament as this is totally dependent on the lockdown laws determined by the State government. So, in an attempt to ensure that the children cover all the necessary material, take the pressure off families already overloaded with tasks from school, reduce the number of zoom meetings that are required, AND ensure that we can be ready to proceed at short notice if needs be and do so in a manner which is still meaningful to your child and to you, we have divided the preparation into three distinct components

1. **Home based conversations-** As the first educators of your child in faith, you are well positioned to lead your child and together grow in faith and love of each other and of God. You will be sent some activities and tasks during the school holidays, with plenty of time to complete them WITH your child. These home based activities are designed to start a conversation with your child and are a great way to "dig deep" into your faith with your child. Some material will be sent to you via "google forms". Please ensure that you have a google account (gmail) set up on your computer so that you can receive these forms.

2. **Zoom / In person parent conversation** – Parent information night. This date will be set once we have set a date for Confirmation itself.
3. **Zoom / in person conversations for your child and at least one parent.** - In the weeks immediately prior to Confirmation, whenever that might be, some zoom or “in person” conversations will take place. Whilst I would prefer to lead the conversations in person, in the church, I will only do so if its legal to do so. These conversations will be on Tuesday /Friday afternoons after school or on Friday evenings.

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!

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. If your child has not received their First Communion and is in year 6 or above please contact me via email.

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

If you would like your child to enroll for the preparation and celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, please return, (via email if possible rachel@saintanthonys.org.au), your enrolment form, and a scanned copy of your child’s certificate of Baptism. **I have extended the enrolment period. Enrolments now close on Wednesday, 15th September.**

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.

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
Wednesday 15th September, 2021**