

ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH MARSFIELD

Rachel Murphy
Pastoral Associate
St Anthony's Parish
54 Agincourt Road
Marsfield NSW 2122
Phone: 9888 5222
Email: rachel@saintanthonys.org.au

24th May 2022

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.

As has been the tradition in this parish prior to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the Sacrament of First Eucharist will be celebrated during our parish Sunday Masses. This is a lovely way for the children and their families to join together with their parish family to celebrate this important occasion. This year the First Eucharist Masses will take place on Saturday, 30th July at 6pm, Sunday 31st July at 9am, Saturday 6th August at 6pm and Sunday 7th August at 9am.

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 – Thursday 2nd June 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 4th/ 5th June. 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. Please note that whilst I am trying to accommodate families the program is most effective when we have neither a very large, nor a very small group of children in the conversations. Please ensure that you indicate both a first and second preference on the enrolment form so that I can optimize the size of each group

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 of 25th/26th June. Whilst you are free to choose any of the Masses on that weekend, the 9am Mass is a family Mass with a child and family focus

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

Rehearsal: Each First Communion Mass will have a separate rehearsal during the week immediately prior to your child's First Communion. These dates are yet to be confirmed

First Eucharist: Saturday, 30th July at 6pm, Sunday 31st July at 9am, Saturday 6th August at 6pm and Sunday 7th August at 9am

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. Please take the time to really consider the importance of Eucharist in the faith life of your family and prioritise attending Mass each week, both in the weeks to come as your child prepares for Eucharist and beyond.

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 1st June 2022. If you did not participate in the Reconciliation program for 2022 at St Anthony's, a copy of his/her Baptism certificate is also required.

The First Communion program costs the parish about \$40 per child. If you are in a position to do so, a donation towards the running costs of this program would be greatly appreciated and would assist the parish in providing this service to our children and their families.

Please submit your enrolment form, certificate of Baptism (if required) and any donations to the parish office by Wednesday 1st June, 2022

Yours sincerely,
Rachel Murphy

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, 1st June – enrolments due

Thursday 2nd June at 6.30pm – Parent's information and enrolment night

Weekend of 4th/ 5th June–Rite of enrolment during the Sunday Masses (6pm Vigil, 9am or 6pm)

Weekend of 26th June – Presentations of the Lord's Prayer during Sunday Masses (6pm vigil, 9am or 6pm). The 9am Mass is a family Mass.

Saturday 30th July– First Eucharist Mass (6pm)

Sunday 31st July – First Eucharist Mass (9am)

Saturday 6th August – First Eucharist Mass (6pm)

Sunday 7th August – First Eucharist Mass (9am)

Rehearsal dates for First Communion Masses will be confirmed in due course.

Preparation period

Tuesday conversations at 4pm

Tuesday 7th June – conversation 1

Tuesday 14th June- conversation 2

Tuesday 21st June – conversation 3

Tuesday 28th June- conversation 4

Friday conversations at 3.30pm or 6.15pm

Friday 10th June – Conversation 1

Friday 17th June – conversation

Friday 24th June– conversation 3

Friday 1st July – conversation 4

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

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

FIRST EUCHARIST

Enrolment Form 2022

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: :

Address:

..... Postcode:

Phone: Home Mobile

E-mail:

Father's name.....

Address:

..... Postcode:

Phone: Home Mobile

E-mail:

Preferred First Communion Mass time: 1st Preference

Sat 30th July (6pm), Sun 31st July (9am)

Sat 6th Aug (6pm), Sun 7th Aug (9am) 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 1st June, 2022