

ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH MARSFIELD

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21st May 2023

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, also known as First Communion. 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 First Eucharist celebrations will take place during our parish Sunday Masses. This is a lovely way for the children and their families to join with their parish family to celebrate this important occasion. This year the First Eucharist Masses will take place on Saturday, 5th August at 6pm, Sunday 6th July at 9am, Saturday 12th August at 6pm and Sunday 13th 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 August. 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 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 3rd/ 4th June. The children will be presented with their First Eucharist preparation pack at these Masses and participate in a Rite of Enrolment.

Child and parent "Conversations"- Friday afternoons (3.45pm), and on Friday evening (6.15pm)

For four weeks prior to First Eucharist your child and at least one parent will participate in a "Child and Parent" centred program which focuses on helping you to help your child to prayerfully prepare for the Sacrament of Eucharist. Each "Conversation" comprises of 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 allow the whole family to come together for prayer, reflection, and ongoing conversation.

The First Eucharist program will be held **on Fridays at 3.45pm or 6.15pm**. Each session will take about 90 minutes. 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. Please see the dates below.

Please also note that whilst the program consists of four Conversations I have included 5 Conversation sessions in the timetable. The fifth Conversation is a "just in case" Conversation, - Just in case Fr Greg or myself become unwell or otherwise unable to attend during the program and we need a catch up Conversation. Please put all five timeslots in your diary.

Presentation of the Lord's Prayer – Children will be presented with the Lord's prayer during the weekend Masses of 22nd /23rd July. 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 – Fr Greg is available to celebrate Reconciliation on any Saturday afternoon (from 5.30pm) if you or your child wish to celebrate Reconciliation again.

Rehearsal: Each First Communion Mass will have a separate rehearsal during the week immediately prior to your child's First Communion. Each child will be given a specific role in the liturgy, so it is important that you prioritise your child's attendance at their nominated rehearsal time

These rehearsals will be on the Tuesday afternoon / evening prior to your child's First Communion date. The time is yet to be confirmed.

First Eucharist: Saturday, 5th August at 6pm, Sunday 6th August at 9am, Saturday 12th August at 6pm and Sunday 13th August at 9am

Attending Mass each Sunday is fundamental to living our 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 31st May 2023. If your child did not participate in the Reconciliation program for 2023 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. Donations can be made in cash or by contacting Rose in the parish office (9888-5222) who can receive credit card details on the phone or in person.

Please submit your enrolment form, certificate of Baptism (if required) and any donations to the parish office by Wednesday 31st May, 2023

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Murphy
Sacramental Coordinator

Fr Greg Walsh cm
Parish Priest

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, 31st May – enrolments due

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

Weekend of 3rd /4th June–Rite of enrolment during the Sunday Masses (6pm Vigil, 9am or 6pm)

Weekend of 22nd /23rd July – Presentations of the Lord's Prayer during Sunday Masses (6pm vigil, 9am or 6pm). The 9am Mass is a family Mass which will have a particular focus for the children.

Saturday 5th August– First Eucharist Mass (6pm)

Sunday 6th August – First Eucharist Mass (9am)

Rehearsal date for children receiving on this weekend – **Tuesday 1st August** – time to be confirmed

Saturday 12th August – First Eucharist Mass (6pm)

Sunday 13th August– First Eucharist Mass (9am)

Rehearsal date for children receiving on this weekend – **Tuesday 8th August** – time to be confirmed

Preparation period

Friday conversations at 3.30pm or 6.15pm

Friday 16th June – Conversation 1

Friday 23rd June – Conversation

Friday 30th June– Conversation 3

School holidays

Friday 21st July – Conversation 4

Friday 28th July – Conversation 5

Saturdays 5.30pm- Individual Reconciliation on any Saturday during the preparation period prior to First Communion.

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

FIRST EUCHARIST

Enrolment Form 2023

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 was 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 5th Aug (6pm), Sun 6th Aug (9am)

Sat 12th Aug (6pm), Sun 13th Aug (9am)

2nd Preference

Preferred preparation session time
or Friday 3.45pm 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 31st May 2023