

ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH MARSFIELD

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26th March 2024

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.

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 is in year 6 or above and has not yet celebrated their Baptism, First Reconciliation or received their First Communion please contact us. We are here to help.

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.

Our Confirmation program

Parent formation and Information nights – 6.30pm Thursday, 11th April. This information night is just for the parents and will be held in the church.

Child / parent Conversations – The children AND at least one parent will participate in a child and parent centered program which focuses on helping your child to prayerfully prepare for Confirmation. 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. These Conversations will take place on one **Thursday** afternoon and three **Friday** afternoons at 3.45pm or 6.15pm. (Thursday 9th May, Friday 31st May, Friday 14th June, Friday, 21st June. Please note that there is no Conversation on 7th June, (as previously advertised) due to a pupil free day on that day at St Anthonys school.

Taize evening of prayer – Mrs Annette Leahy, who works in St Anthonys school will be leading a night of prayer on Friday 17th May at 7pm, for the children, their family and other parishioners. This is a beautiful way to begin your child's time of preparation for Confirmation.

Online learning activities – Each parent will be sent work to be completed with their child at home. These home activities are designed to further your child's understanding and allow the whole family to come together for prayer, reflection, and ongoing conversation. Online learning activities are a core component of the program.

Mass attendance - There are two presentation Masses during the Confirmation preparation period. - Weekend of 4th/5th May and Sunday 23rd June at the 9am Mass

Meet the Bishop – Bishop Terry Brady, the bishop who will be Confirming our children will be visiting our parish so that he can meet the children and participate in some activities with them. He will be here in the parish to meet the children on **Tuesday 11th June at 6.30pm**. This is a great opportunity for your children to meet with the Bishop who will Confirm them, but in a less formal setting.

Rehearsal: The rehearsal for all the children will be on Sunday 23rd June, after the 9am morning Mass. The rehearsal will commence at 10.30am

Confirmation Mass: Friday, 28th June at 7pm

If you would like to enroll your child to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, please complete the enrolment form attached to this letter and return it to the parish office by Monday 6th April, 2024. A copy of your child's Baptism certificate is required.

Whilst all Sacraments are given freely, running the Confirmation preparation program costs the parish about \$50 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 all of our children and their families.

Yours sincerely,



Fr Greg Walsh cm
Parish priest



Rachel Murphy
Sacramental coordinator

IMPORTANT DATES FOR CONFIRMATION

Monday 8th April – Enrolments due

THURSDAY, 11th April at 6.30pm – Parent information and enrolment night

Weekend 4th/5th May – Enrolment Masses – Sat 6pm, Sun 9am or Sun 6pm

THURSDAY, 9th May– Conversation 1 (3.45pm and 6.15pm)

Friday, 17th May at 7pm – Taize Prayer evening

Friday 31st May – Conversation 2

TUESDAY 11th June at 6.30pm – Bishop Terry Brady will be visiting the children in preparation for Confirmation. He will be meeting the children in the School Hall.

Friday 14th June– Conversation 3

Friday 21st June – Conversation 4

Sunday, 23rd June

- 9am Family Mass and presentation of the Creed
- 10.30 Confirmation rehearsal

Friday 28th June - Confirmation Mass at 7pm

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH
CONFIRMATION

Enrolment Form 2024

Family Name:

Child's Name:

Date of Birth:

School Attending: Year:.....

Baptism Details: Parish: Date:

Mother's Name:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Phone: Home Mobile

Email Address:

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

Friday afternoon 3.45 or Friday evening 6.15

2nd Preference

Please return to the parish office or via email, along with a copy of your child's Baptism certificate, and any donations towards the running cost of the program no later than Monday 8th April

Parish Office use Only

Register Number..... Entered in Liber Confirmatorum.....

Entered in Computer.....