

# ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH MARSFIELD

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16<sup>th</sup> August 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 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.

The First Eucharist celebrations will take place during our parish Sunday Masses on **Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm, and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 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. Enrolments are due on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September

The program consists of several components, all designed to help you and your child prepare to receive their First Communion.

**Parent formation and information night – Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 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 21<sup>st</sup> /22<sup>nd</sup> September**. 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"**

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 Conversation will take place on THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER AT 3.45PM OR 6.15PM..**

**The remainder of the conversations will take place on Fridays – 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>. And 15<sup>th</sup> November at 3.45pm or 6.15pm**

**Taize Prayer** –Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm

**Presentation of the Lord's Prayer** – Children will be presented with the Lord's prayer during the Masses on 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> November. 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 5.30- 5.50pm or by appointment with Fr Greg) if you or your child wish to celebrate Reconciliation.

**Rehearsal:** Each First Communion Mass will have a separate rehearsal during the week immediately prior to your child's First Communion.

These rehearsals will be on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November, afternoon / evening. The time is yet to be confirmed.

**First Eucharist:** Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm or Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 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.

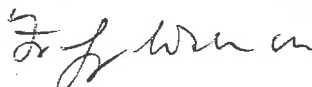
The First Communion program costs the parish about \$40 per child. If you are in a position to do so, a donation towards the running costs of this program would be greatly appreciated and would assist the parish in providing this service to our children and their families. Donations can be made in cash or by contacting Rose in the parish office (9888-5222) who can receive credit card details on the phone or in person.

If you would like to enroll your child in the First Eucharist program, please complete the enrolment form attached to this letter, and return it and any donations to the parish office by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September. If your child did not participate in the Reconciliation program for 2024 at St Anthony's, a copy of his/her Baptism certificate is also required.

Yours sincerely,



Rachel Murphy  
Sacramental Coordinator



Fr Greg Walsh cm  
Parish Priest

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September** – enrolments due

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm** – Parent's information and enrolment night (in the church)

**Weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> /22<sup>nd</sup> September**–Rite of enrolment during the Sunday Masses (Saturday 6pm or Sunday 9am or 6pm)

**THURSDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> October at 3.45pm or 6.15pm – Conversation 1**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October** – Taize – 7pm

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November** – Conversation 2 – 3.45pm or 6.15pm

**Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> November** – Conversation 3 - 3.45pm or 6.15pm

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November**- Conversation 4 -3.45pm or 6.15pm

**23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> November**– Presentation of the Lord's Prayer during the weekend Masses. The 9am Mass will have a family and family focus.

**Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November – Rehearsals.** Time to be confirmed.

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November** – First Eucharist Mass (6pm)

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**– First Eucharist Mass (9am)

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

**ST ANTHONY'S PARISH**  
**FIRST EUCHARIST**  
**Enrolment Form 2024**

**Family Name:** .....

**Child's Name:** .....

Date of Birth: .....

School Attending: ..... Year: .....

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

Has your child prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation?                      YES / NO

**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:                      1<sup>st</sup> Preference .....

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> November (6pm), Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec (9am)

2<sup>nd</sup> Preference .....

Preferred preparation session time

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 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024