

## **SUNDAY MASS**

Participation at Sunday Mass is essential to preparation for these three Sacraments. Again, Sacramental preparation is not just another class in which to learn information, it's growth in a lived friendship with Christ.

Helping children to grow spiritually also requires a commitment from parents by participating in the life of the parish in particular through Sunday Mass. Preparation for these Sacraments is not just about imparting knowledge, but also experiencing the life of grace available to us when we participate in the Eucharist. Just like you can't learn cricket without picking up a bat and practicing, so too faith is not just knowledge about Christ, but a lived holy communion with him.

There are four Masses on a weekend at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church (6pm Vigil on Saturday evening, 8am, 9.15am in Italian and 11am on Sunday morning). I appreciate that this may involve families planning their weekend to give priority to Sunday Mass, but the best preparation for our children to celebrate Confirmation and Holy Communion must include picking up the bat and playing some cricket as well as reading the rule book.

## **PARISH PASSPORT**

With that in mind, the weekend of 24/25 September, candidates will receive their 'Parish Passport' which contains the prayers that they must learn in order to make their First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. On designated Sundays, candidates will also receive a holy card of a saint which corresponds to the Sacraments they are celebrating. It is imperative that the children learn these prayers and complete the Passport as I will be visiting classes to examine the candidates before they are able to celebrate each of the sacraments.

## **WORKSHOPS**

The focus on Sunday Mass means that there will be fewer workshops over the year. The expectation is that the required work is completed with your child at home so that the time during the workshops can be dedicated to reviewing, clarifying and expanding on the work completed. The workshop for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be on **Wednesday, 9 November from 6pm-7.30pm**. The workshops for the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion will be advised next year.

## **RESOURCE**

The resources we will be using is called *Blessed* and is produced by Dynamic Catholic. Mrs Douventzidis has prepared the required work and will communicate that to parents.

## **CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (PENANCE)**

There will be two dates set aside for the children to make their First Reconciliation:

**Friday, 2 December – 3.30pm-5.30pm**

**Tuesday, 6 December – 3.30pm-5.30pm**

Alternatively, any of the regular parish times for Confession are also available. The children will be provided with the necessary resources to assist them through the ritual of their First Reconciliation. Parents are also encouraged to take this opportunity to go to Confession. If it has been a long time, don't worry, resources will be available to help you.

## **CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

It is customary for the Archbishop to visit the parish to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. These dates have not yet been determined by the Archdiocese, but at this stage I would say the

celebration of Confirmation will be towards the end of 2023. If the Archbishop is unable to visit the parish, he will delegate the Vicar General or me to administer the sacrament to the candidates.

### **CONFIRMATION SAINT**

The candidates will need to choose the name of a saint for Confirmation which we will discuss in further details during our workshops next year. The Parish Passport will provide candidates with some examples of saints to encourage their research.

### **CONFIRMATION SPONSOR**

The children will need to select one sponsor who must be a baptised and confirmed practicing Catholic who has received their First Holy Communion and is at least 16 years of age. This is the universal law of the Catholic Church which cannot be dispensed.

### **CELEBRATION OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

It is envisaged that the celebration of First Holy Communion will take place over approximately 3 weekends during the regular Sunday Masses. Families will have the option to choose which Mass they would like to attend for the celebration of First Holy Communion. There will be a maximum of 8 children per Mass. These dates have not been allocated yet as we still need to find out the dates for Confirmation from the Archbishop's Office.

### **WHAT TO WEAR FOR THE OCCASION?**

For the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion, children are asked to wear their best clothes which reflect the importance of the occasion. Traditionally, girls have worn white dresses and boys have worn shirt, tie and trousers but there is no obligation to do so. Please do not spend an extravagant amount of money on clothes for the occasion.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [frmichaelromeo@gmail.com](mailto:frmichaelromeo@gmail.com) or on the parish phone number 8369 8082.

Yours sincerely,

Rev. Fr Michael Romeo PP