



# MARY QUEEN OF THE FAMILY PARISH, BLACKTOWN

## 2026 Information

### Sacraments for Children

The Sacraments of Initiation and  
the Sacrament of Penance  
for Children of Catechetical Age  
who have been baptised.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Preparing to become a full member of the Catholic Church is a very important step for children.

Having received the Sacrament of Baptism, the time has now come for them to receive the remaining sacraments for their growth in the Christian life – the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Sacrament of the Eucharist (Communion) and the Sacrament of Confirmation. These are beautiful sacraments that nourish us throughout our entire lives as Christians.

Through the reception of these sacraments, your child becomes a full member of the Catholic Church.

MQOF Parish Blacktown provides a program whereby this process can take place, and follows the policy provided by the Diocese of Parramatta.

#### **PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY**

While the MQOF Parish facilitates the program, the preparation for reception of sacraments remains the responsibility of the parents.

Parents have the first responsibility for education of their child. Faith education begins at home and in the child's earliest years, such as showing them how to pray and reading easy bible stories about Jesus.

The program provides opportunities for parents to continue to share their faith with their child as they come together to inquire and reflect upon the faith into which their child is being initiated.

Faith, example, motivation and devotion are primary gifts nurtured in the program.

**We ask that you and your child attend Sunday Mass during the program.**

## WHEN CAN THE SACRAMENTS BE RECEIVED

The Diocesan Policy advises that, having received the Sacrament of Baptism, catechesis on the Sacraments can begin as follows:

### **For the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation, Confession)**

For children 7 or 8 years of age or older who have not received the Sacrament of Penance. It is strongly advised that children should 7½ years before the celebration.

### **For the Sacrament of Eucharist (First Communion)**

For children 8 or 9 years of age or older who have received the Sacrament of Penance. It is strongly advised that children should at least 8½ before the celebration.

### **For the Sacrament of Confirmation**

For children 10 or 11 years of age or older who have received the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist. It is strongly advised that children should 10½ before the celebration.

## WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM INVOLVE

The program will require work from you and your children to be done at home over a period of four weeks.

### **Step 1: REGISTER**

**The first step is an online registration of your child** for the Sacrament during the registration period. **This Google Form link** will be available a few days before the start of the registration period.

### **Step 2: ATTENDANCE**

**The format will require compulsory attendance by parents at a Parent's Information session, after which you will then work with the child at home over four weeks, using the children's activity workbook provided for each Sacrament.**

Parental Guidance Notes will be provided via email on Monday afternoon of each week during the preparation. These short videos/notes are mainly for parent use, outlining briefly what is expected each week. Parents and children are asked to then work through the Children's activity workbook, one session per week. This can be done anytime during the week.

**The children's workbooks will be available at the Parent Information Session.**

### **STEP 3: WORKING WITH YOUR CHILD**

You will work with your child over the four weeks of the program.

In these four weeks, further information regarding possible rehearsal times and registering for the days and time for reception of the Sacrament will be provided – again via Google Forms link.

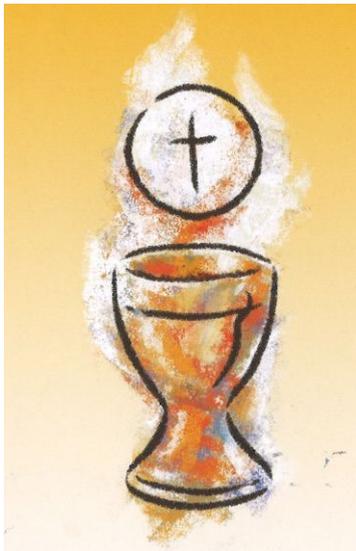
## STEP 4: CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT

The Sacrament will be celebrated on the days a specified below.

**ONLINE ENROLMENT FOR EACH SACRAMENT IS COMPULSORY.**

### PROGRAM DETAILS

- April to June - Sacrament of the Eucharist (First Communion)
  - July to September – Sacrament of Confirmation
  - September to November – Sacrament of Penance
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**April – June**

**THE SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST (FIRST COMMUNION)**

*For children eight/nine years of age or older who have received the Sacrament of Penance. Children should be 8.5 before the celebration.*

**Friday 3 April to Sunday 19 April**

Online Registration for Communion during school holidays

***Link will be provided here a few days before registration opens.***

#### **Parents Information Sessions & Book Collection**

**Compulsory Attendance on either**

**Tuesday evening 28 April at 7pm in St Patrick's Church OR**

**Friday Morning 1 May at 9am in the Cardinal Clancy Room at St Pat's**

#### **At home Workbook topics**

Session 1 commencing Monday 4 May

Jesus is With Us

Session 2 commencing Monday 11 May

The Mass – Gathering and Listening

Session 3 commencing Monday 18 May

The Last Supper

Session 4 commencing Monday 25 May  
Jesus the Bread of Life – Receiving Holy Communion

**Rehearsals – to be advised**

**Celebration of First Communion Masses**

***Weekends of 6-7 June and 13-14 June  
Churches and times to be advised***

***Attendance at Weekend Masses is expected throughout the whole programme***

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### **July to September THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

***For children ten/eleven years of age or older  
who have received the Sacraments of Penance  
and Eucharist. Children should be 10.5 before  
the celebration.***

**Friday 3 July to Sunday 19 July**  
Online Registration for Confirmation during  
school holidays

***Link will be provided here a few days before  
registration opens.***

### **Parents Information Session & Book Collection**

**Compulsory Attendance on either  
Tuesday evening 28 July at 7pm in St Patrick's Church OR  
Friday Morning 31 July at 9am in the Cardinal Clancy Room at St Pat's**

### **At home Workbook topics**

Session 1 commencing Monday 3 August  
Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

Session 2 commencing Monday 10 August  
Pentecost- The Holy Spirit Comes

Session 3 commencing Monday 17 August  
The Work of the Holy Spirit – Gifts and Fruits

Session 4 commencing Monday 24 August  
Celebrating Confirmation

**Celebration of Confirmation @ St Patrick's Church**

***Tuesday 8 September at 7pm and Thursday 10 September at 7pm***

***Attendance at Weekend Masses is expected throughout the whole programme***

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**September to November  
THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**

***For children 7 or 8 years of age or older who have not received the Sacrament of Penance. Children should be 7.5 years before the celebration.***

**Friday 25 September to Sunday 11 October**

Online Registration for Penance during school holidays

***Link will be provided here a few days before registration opens.***

**Parents Information Sessions & Book Collection**

**Compulsory Attendance on either**

**Tuesday evening 20 October at 7pm in St Patrick's Church OR**

**Friday morning 23 October at 9am in the Cardinal Clancy Room at St Pat's**

**At home Workbook topics**

Session 1 commencing Monday 26 October  
Making Choices

Session 2 commencing Monday 2 November  
Jesus Shows us How to Live

Session 3 commencing Monday 9 November  
Forgiving and Being Forgiven

Session 4 commencing Monday 16 November  
The Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance @ St Pat's Church**  
*Thursday 26 November 4-6pm*

*Attendance at Weekend Masses is expected throughout the whole programme.*

For further information please email [sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au) or connect with us

**The Parish Team**