

St Joseph's Catholic Church Riverwood

Dates for Sacramental Programs in 2018

Confirmation (Year 6 & above) Term 2

Information Night: Thursday 12 April 7:00pm (Week 11 in Term 1)

Preparation classes:

Sunday	6 May	8:20am
Sunday	20 May	8:20am
Sunday	27 May	8:20am
Sunday	3 June	8:20am

Confirmation: Thursday 7 June at 7:00pm

First Communion (Year 3 & above) Term 3

Information night: Wednesday 27 June 7:00pm (Week 9 in Term 2)

Preparation classes:

Sunday	29 July	8:20am
Sunday	5 August	8:20am
Sunday	12 August	8:20am
Sunday	19 August	8:20am

First Communion: Sun 26 August at 10:30am

First Confession (Year 2 & above) Term 4

Information night: Wednesday 12 September 7:00pm (Week 8 in Term 3)

Preparation classes:

Sunday	14 October	8:20am
Sunday	21 October	8:20am
Sunday	28 October	8:20am
Sunday	4 November	8:20am

First Confession Liturgy: Wednesday 7 November 7:00pm

First Confession: Saturday 10 November from 2:00pm

- Please see the reverse of this sheet for a "Sacraments Explained" letter which outlines the Sacraments and the order in which they are received.
- Invitation letters will be handed to students prior to each sacramental program.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact the Parish Office by email at stjosephriverwood@outlook.com or by phone on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays on 9534 1537.

The Sacramental Program at St Joseph's Catholic Parish Riverwood

A Sacrament is a special sign of God's love and presence in our lives. Sacraments are God's gift to us through which we come closer to Jesus and his Church.

The sacraments start with **baptism**. If your child is not yet baptised, please contact the parish immediately to arrange to meet Fr John and organise the baptism.

Baptism is the gateway to the other sacraments. During the baptism ceremony, the child's parents make a commitment to teach the child the faith and continue the path of Christian Initiation through the reception of Confirmation and Holy Communion, which are normally celebrated during the child's primary school years in the following order.

- **First Confession, Year 2 (usually term 4)**
- **First Holy Communion, Year 3 (usually term 3)**
- **Confirmation, Year 6 (usually term 2)**

Preparation for the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation is parish based. The Church expects parents to play an active part in this preparation by attending sacramental information nights, commitment Masses and sacramental lessons.

First Confession

By his death on the cross, Jesus Christ redeemed man from sin. The Sacrament of First Confession restores life to the soul through forgiveness of our sins. Through Confession we come to God to receive forgiveness and healing in our lives and in our relationships.

The candidates celebrate the Sacrament of First Confession with their families at a special ceremony.

First Holy Communion

In this sacrament we receive Jesus himself under the form of bread and are deeply united to Him and to our Christian brothers and sisters.

Students celebrate their First Communion when they are in Year 3. It is a special event for families and an ongoing Sacrament celebrated with our Parish and school family at Mass.

Confirmation

Confirmation is the sacrament by which we receive a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit in a strengthening of the gifts we received in Baptism. Through Confirmation, the Holy Spirit gives us the increased ability to practise our Catholic faith in every aspect of our lives and to witness Christ in every situation.