

# **St Joseph's Catholic Church Riverwood**

## **Dates for Sacramental Programs in 2021**

### **First Confession** *(carried forward for students from Year 2 last year who missed out due to Covid-19)* **(Year 3 & above) Term 1**

**Information night:** Wednesday 10 February 7:00pm (Week 3 in Term 1)

**Preparation classes:** Sunday 21 February 8:20am  
Sunday 28 February 8:20am  
Sunday 7 March 8:20am  
Sunday 14 March 8:20am

**First Confession Liturgy:** Wednesday 17 March 7:00pm

**First Confession:** Saturday 20 March from 2:00pm

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### **Confirmation** **(Year 6 & above) Term 2**

**Information Night:** Wednesday 31 March 7:00pm (Week 10 in Term 1)

**Preparation classes:** Saturday 24 April  
All from 4:00pm – 5:30pm Saturday 1 May  
Saturday 8 May  
Saturday 15 May

**Final Lesson, Practice and Confession:** Saturday 22 May 4:00pm till 5:30pm

**Confirmation:** Thursday 27 May at 7:00pm

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### **First Communion** **(Year 3 & above) Term 3**

**Information night:** Wednesday 23 June 7:00pm (Week 10 in Term 2)

**Preparation classes:** Sunday 25 July 8:20am  
Sunday 1 August 8:20am  
Sunday 8 August 8:20am  
Sunday 15 August 8:20am

**First Communion Practice and Confession Day:** Saturday 21 August from 2:30 – 4:30pm

**First Communion:** Sun 22 August at 11am

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### **First Confession** **(Year 2) Term 4**

**Information night:** Wednesday 15 September 7:00pm (Week 10 in Term 3)

**Preparation classes:** Sunday 10 October 8:20am  
Sunday 17 October 8:20am  
Sunday 24 October 8:20am  
Sunday 31 October 8:20am

**First Confession Liturgy:** Wednesday 3 November 7:00pm

**First Confession:** Saturday 6 November from 2:00pm

- Please see the reverse of this sheet for further information and the "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](mailto:stjosephriverwood@outlook.com) or by phone on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays on 9534 1537.

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## **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.