

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH RIVERWOOD

26 Thurlow Street Riverwood NSW 2210

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Information for Parents Regarding First Confession 2021 – deferred from Term 4, 2020

As parish priest of St Joseph's, I invite parents or carers to attend an information evening regarding the Sacrament of First Confession at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Riverwood.

When:	Wednesday 10 February 2021
Where:	Parish Centre adjacent to St Joseph's Presbytery
Time:	7pm to purchase programs: with 7:30pm commencement
Programs:	Cost is \$25, please bring on the night
Attendees:	Parents/carers only

Which children are eligible for First Confession? Any baptised Catholic child who is in Year 3 or older. The parents of children in Year 3 and above who would like their child to make their First Confession are asked to complete the attached enrolment form. This form is to be returned to St Joseph's Presbytery (26 Thurlow Street – adjacent to the Church, can be placed in letterbox) or your teacher by Tuesday 9 February 2021.

Please note that if your child wishes to make their First Holy Communion later this year, they need to make their First Confession this year.

A photocopy of your child's Baptismal Certificate must accompany your enrolment form together with a current **school photo** of your child with your child's name printed clearly on the back.

The program will include the following:

- **Four consecutive** 1-hour preparation sessions commencing Sunday 21 February at 8.20am. The last session will be on Sunday 14 March
- First Confession Liturgy will be on **Wednesday 17 March** at 7:00pm
- The Sacrament of First Confession will be on **Saturday 20 March** from 2:00pm

Please see overleaf for an overview of the Sacramental Program at the Parish.

Should you have any questions regarding this Program please email the Parish at stjosephriverwood@outlook.com or phone the Presbytery during office hours (Tuesday, Thursday or Friday 9am-3.30pm) on 9534 1537.

I look forward to meeting you at the Parent Information Night.

Fr John Doherty
Parish Priest

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 deepens our relationship with Jesus and confirms us to live the Christian life by giving us the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Confirmation is usually conferred by a bishop during a special ceremony. The Bishop anoints the sacred oil of chrism on the forehead of each Confirmand. With the laying of the hands, the candidates are then invited to go out into the world, just as the Apostles did, with the Holy Spirit in their hearts.