

## ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH RIVERWOOD

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### Information for Parents Regarding First Confession 2021

As parish priest of St Joseph's, I invite parents or carers to attend an information evening.

**When:** Wednesday 20 October 2021

**Where:** By Zoom

<https://scscatholic.zoom.us/j/63185324701?pwd=NE1nQk4wSVpCMHRzNjNzamN2K05wZz09>

**Time:** 7pm

**Cost:** \$25 (preferably to be paid via the 'Support Us' button on the Parish website homepage)

**Who is eligible for First Confession?** Any baptised Catholic child who is in Year 2 or above. Their parents are asked to complete the enrolment form on the Parish website. This form (along with a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate and current **school photo**) can be delivered to the Presbytery (26 Thurlow Street – adjacent to the Church, can be placed in letterbox) or to the class teacher.

The Catechesis of the candidates will be incorporated into their regular religious formation in the school.

The date for the celebration of the Sacrament will be advised by email from the Parish.

Please see below 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](mailto:stjosephriverwood@outlook.com).

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 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.

While the sacrament is celebrated privately, candidates come with their families for First Confession.

## *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 normally 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.