

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

## **Dates for Sacramental Programs in 2023**

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

**Information Night:** Wednesday 3 May 7:15pm (Week 2 in Term 2)

**Preparation classes:** Sunday 21 May  
Sunday 28 May  
Sunday 4 June  
Sunday 18 June

**Confirmation Practice and Confession Day:** Saturday 24 June from 1:30 – 3:00pm

**Confirmation:** Tuesday 27 June 7pm

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

**Information night:** Wednesday 26 July 7:00pm (Week 2 in Term 3)

**Preparation classes:** Sunday 13 Aug 8:20am  
Sunday 20 Aug 8:20am  
Sunday 27 Aug 8:20am  
Sunday 10 Sep 8:20am

**First Communion Practice and Confession Day:** Saturday 16 Sep from 2:30 – 4:30pm

**First Communion Day** Sun 17 Sep from 11am

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

**Information night:** Wednesday 20 September 7:00pm (Week 10 in Term 3)

**Preparation classes:** Sunday 15 October 8:20am  
Sunday 22 October 8:20am  
Sunday 29 October 8:20am  
Sunday 5 November 8:20am

**First Confession Liturgy:** Wednesday 8 November 7:00pm

**First Confession:** Saturday 11 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, Wednesdays or Thursdays on the Parish Mobile 0490 754 963.

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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.