

## ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH RIVERWOOD

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### Information for Parents Regarding First Confession 2023

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

<b>When:</b>	<b>Wednesday 20 September 2023</b>
<b>Where:</b>	St Joseph's Church
<b>Time:</b>	7pm to register with 7:30pm commencement
<b>Cost:</b>	\$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. The parents of children in Year 2 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 Friday 15 September 2023.

**Please note that if your child wishes to make their First Holy Communion next 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 15 October at 8.20am. The last session will be on Sunday 5 November
- First Confession Liturgy will be on **Wednesday 8 November** at 7:00pm
- The Sacrament of First Confession will be on **Saturday 11 November** 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](mailto:stjosephriverwood@outlook.com) or phone the Presbytery during office hours (Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30am-3.30pm) on 0490 754 963.

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.