



ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, PERTH

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

29 October 2019

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2019

Dear Parents and children,

I would like to inform the Catholic families in the Cathedral parish of the dates of the parish events which lead up to the reception of the sacrament of confirmation in 2019. If you are not in the Cathedral Parish please make contact with your parish priest to discuss the parish programme.

Parents play a key role in passing on faith. Pope Francis said recently, *'Your children's "little eyes" gradually memorize and interpret with the heart that faith is one of the greatest inheritances you have received from your parents and ancestors.... And if you hand on the faith and live it well, that is where the transmission happens.'* Parents are supported in this by the Catholic School Religious Education Programme or a Parish Religious Education Programme (PREP). Parents will need to ensure that their children are attending one or the other; if your child is not attending a Catholic school please contact the Cathedral parish office as soon as possible so that we can assist you.

The sacrament of confirmation will be celebrated in the parish on Sunday, 9 June 2019 at the 11am Mass. Children are asked to come in neat clothing appropriate to the occasion; school uniforms may not be worn.

There will be a combined commitment Mass and enrolment for the sacrament at the Cathedral on Saturday 9 February at 6pm. The commitment ceremony will take place during Mass and after Mass the enrolment for the sacrament will be completed. Please bring a copy of the child's baptismal certificate to the enrolment. This certificate will need to be received before the child can be confirmed. You are asked to pay the \$25 fee when enrolling. At the enrolment you may also be asked to indicate which parent-child workshop you will attend.

On Wednesday, 1 May at 5pm a parent-child workshop will be held in the Cathedral parish centre. Another workshop will be held at 6.30pm if there are more than twenty candidates for the sacrament. A parent will need to attend one of the workshops with the child. At that workshop a facilitator will help parents and children talk about faith and confirmation.

On Thursday, 16 May a retreat will be held for the children. All candidates are required to attend. School retreats are not a substitute for the parish retreat. Please speak to your child's teacher about it. The programme includes a rehearsal for confirmation.

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After the confirmation all the families come together for a Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday, 22 June at 6pm at which the children receive their certificates. We hope to have a little celebration after Mass.

As you can see there are not many events. It is very important for the children and their families to participate regularly in Sunday Mass if they are not already doing so. The Mass is at the heart of our Catholic identity and faith. We are, indeed, baptised and confirmed so that we can participate fully in the Mass.

If you have any questions please do speak to one of the priests or call the parish office. This sacrament is a very special moment in your child's journey of faith and your parish community looks forward to supporting you in the journey and to the celebration of the Sacrament.

Summary of Dates

Confirmation enrolment Saturday 9 February 2019 at 6pm Mass

Parent-child workshop – Wednesday, 1 May at 5pm (and 6.30pm if necessary)

Retreat day – Thursday, 16 May, 8.45am – 2.30pm

Celebration of sacrament - 9 June 2019, 11am Mass

Thanksgiving Mass and presentation of certificates – Saturday, 22 June at 6pm

God bless.

Best wishes



Fr Sean Fernandez
Dean and Administrator

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