



PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the St. Anne's Parish Sacramental Program. As a parish, we will support you as you prepare your child to receive their Sacrament.

St. Anne's conducts a parish and School based sacramental program. The program applies to all eligible students from the two parish primary schools and eligible students from the parish who attend government or other private schools. This parish and school based program also helps educate parents in their rights, duties, and responsibilities towards the faith of their children and of the Sacraments.

The Sacraments include: Reconciliation (in Grade 3), First Eucharist (in Grade 4), Confirmation (in Grade 6) and Baptism for Older School Age Children aged 7–12 years. The Sacraments are a celebration of the life and love of Jesus, therefore it is essential that parents understand each sacrament in order to help and support their child.

Our sacramental program fundamentally involves attendance at Mass. Where this aspect of the program proves difficult for a family please contact the parish office to arrange an appointment with Parish Priest.

The following provides a brief overview of what is required:

1. At the beginning of the year all families will be informed of the opportunity to fill an 'enrolment form' if they wish to have their child/ren receive a sacrament.
2. An enrolment acceptance weekend Mass, when Sacramental candidates and their families make a public commitment to attend Mass at weekends. Children are required to bring up their filled enrolment forms during the Mass as part of this public commitment. Fr. Martin will formally accept these enrolment slips and acknowledge the commitment that they represent. The children are expected to participate and will be prompted to make their commitment during the Mass
3. There will also be one session for children run by Fr. Martin to educate the children in their faith development throughout the year. Non Catholic school children will also be receiving ongoing faith formation by our volunteers. Confirmation students will prepare for their Sacrament with a Preparation Retreat day and a Confirmation rehearsal with the Bishop in the week before the Sacramental Mass. **These are not optional and students are required to attend. For non-parish/government schools we are able to provide your school with a letter to explain the necessary attendance upon request.**

4. Parents and child are also required to attend a Sacramental information Session so that parents can assist in their child's preparation of the Sacraments. Details of this Session for each Sacrament will be forwarded to parents via our parish bulletin, on our website and parish schools for those children who are eligible to receive Sacraments this year. We also send reminders via school app from your school. This is a requirement. Failure to attend this session tells that you are not ready for the sacrament this year.

5. Children may receive only one Sacrament per calendar year and are to be celebrated in the following order:

- ☐ Baptism of Older Children (from age of 7 years and above)
- ☐ Reconciliation (Grade 3 students and must be baptised)
- ☐ Eucharist (Grade 4 students and have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation)
- ☐ Confirmation (Grade 6 students and have received the Sacraments of Reconciliation AND Eucharist)

6. There is an a fee of \$20.00 to purchase a stole for your child if they do not already have one. Stoles are required for all sacraments in 2022. You may purchase one stole to use for your family if you wish to do so. There are options to customise your child's stole at \$6.00 per logo and the order forms for these will be made available at the information evenings.

7. There will be a fee of \$30 for Non Catholic school children to cover the administration and session costs. Non Catholic school children will also be receiving ongoing faith formation by our volunteers.

If parents teach by example and by word, children will grow up to be people of faith – believing in a loving and forgiving God and living a life of love and concern for others. Our faith is a living, growing journey with our God. Children deserve the best, all the support, love and care that we can give.

Fr. Martin Jeramias
Parish Priest
St. Anne's Parish,
Seaford
28-02-2022