



St Michael's Parish, Lane Cove

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023

First Reconciliation
First Holy Communion
Confirmation



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Dear Parents,

When you presented your child for Baptism you promised to raise him or her in the practice of the faith. You were also reminded during the ceremony that you are the first teachers of your child in the ways of faith. The Church then prayed with you that you would also be the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what you say and do.

There's an old saying, "Faith is caught, not taught; it is lived, not learnt." In other words, children grow strong in the faith if they grow up in a household where the faith is a lived reality. The parish community seeks to support and help Catholic parents in their responsibility to pass on the Faith to their children, but can never replace them!

I am therefore delighted that you have remembered your promise at Baptism and are now seeking for your children to receive further sacraments of initiation in the Catholic Faith. Of course, only children who are baptised members of the Catholic Church may receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation as these sacraments complete their initiation.

Parents of children who belong to Eastern Catholic rites (such as Maronite or Melkite rites) must obtain written permission from their own priest before enrolling their child in our Parish program. Ordinarily, Children who belong to Eastern rites also receive Confirmation at Baptism and so cannot receive the sacrament of Confirmation again from us.

It would not ordinarily happen that children who live in other parishes would receive the sacraments of initiation at St Michael's. The promise to raise your children in the faith includes the presumption of regular worship, and therefore, at your own parish church. If non-parishioners wish to enrol in the sacraments at St Michael's, please speak to me to discuss it first.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you all there and to share the joy of your children's first Sacraments with you!

Fr Sam Lynch
Parish Priest

When can my child receive the Sacraments?

First Reconciliation **Year 3**

First Holy Communion **Year 3**

Confirmation **Year 6**

How do I enrol my child?

Enrolments for the sacraments are made via the parish website. There is a \$50 program fee. This will cover the costs of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. For First Reconciliation – if your child was *not* baptised at St Michael's, it is vital that we receive your child's Baptism certificate as part of your enrolment for First Reconciliation. For First Holy Communion – all 2023 First Reconciliation candidates will be contacted directly with an invitation to register their preferred Mass time for First Holy Communion. Anyone who made their First Reconciliation elsewhere will need to submit a full enrolment form for First Holy Communion, including their baptism certificate (last part of First Holy Communion Google Form). Please see the diary on the following page for sacrament program dates.

How will my child be prepared to receive the Sacrament?

All candidates attend group lessons with our Sacramental Coordinator (and helpers). St Michael's School students receive lessons in class during school time as well. They are also expected to attend Sunday Mass as part of their preparation. In preparation to receive either their First Holy Communion or their Rite of Confirmation, candidates must attend their Sacrament, Mass rehearsal and reconciliation to fully complete the program requirements.

How do I know which group my child will be in?

Parents select a date and time for Mass from a choice on the booking form. Bookings are processed as received and when a Mass reaches capacity it is then no longer available.

Term 1: First Reconciliation 2023		
Date	Event	Details
Week 4	Enrolments via Parish Website	
Week 7 12 th March	Sacramental Preparation Lesson 1	Parish Hall 10.30 (following on from 9.30am Mass)
Week 8 19 th March	Sacramental Preparation Lesson 2	Parish Hall 10.30 (following on from 9.30am Mass)
Week 9 26 th March	Sacramental Preparation Lesson 3	Parish Hall 10.30 (following on from 9.30am Mass)
Week 10 27 th March – 2 nd April	First Reconciliations	St Michael's Church St Michael's students go in class time / Other school students choose time slot on google form when enrolling

Term 2: First Holy Communion 2023		
	Registrations open via Parish Website	
Week 4 21 st May	Sacramental Preparation Lesson 1	Parish Hall 10.30 (following on from 9.30am Mass)
Week 5 28 th May	Sacramental Preparation Lesson 2	Parish Hall 10.30 (following on from 9.30am Mass)
Week 6 4 th June	Sacramental Preparation Lesson 3	Parish Hall 10.30 (following on from 9.30am Mass)
Week 8 13 th June	Rehearsal & Reconciliation – Mass 1	St Michael's Church 7-8pm
Week 8 18 th June	First Holy Communion Mass 1	St Michael's Church 11.30am
Week 9 23 th June	Rehearsal & Reconciliation – Mass 2	St Michael's Church 7-8pm
Week 9 25 th June	First Holy Communion Mass 2	St Michael's Church 11.30am

Term 3: Confirmation 2023		
Week 2	Enrolments via Parish website	
Week 3 6 th August	Sacramental Preparation Lesson 1	Parish Hall 10.30 (following on from 9.30am Mass)
Week 4 13 th August	Sacramental Preparation Lesson 2	Parish Hall 10.30 (following on from 9.30am Mass)
Week 5 20 th August	Sacramental Preparation Lesson 3	Parish Hall 10.30 (following on from 9.30am Mass)
Date & Time TBC	Rehearsal & Reconciliation	St Michael's Church
Week 6 27 th August	Rite of Confirmation Masses	St Michael's Church Sunday 11.30am & 3.00pm