

Sacrament Program 2024

Welcome to the 2024 Sacrament Program for St Michael's Parish, Berwick. This information is published by the Parish Sacrament Team with the approval of Fr Jeff, and it provides important dates and practical information that you need to know regarding the Sacraments for 2024. Requirements for parents and children have been clearly outlined. The team welcomes the opportunity to work with you in this journey of faith.

For the Primary School Child, 'Education in Faith' takes place in a number of environments. They are:

Your **FAMILY**, where the child learns to **LIVE** their faith.

The **PARISH**, where the child learns to **CELEBRATE** their faith.

The **SCHOOL/CATECHIST PROGRAM**, where the child learns to **KNOW** their faith.

These three environments work hand-in-hand in promoting the overall faith growth of your child.

We believe that preparation of children for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation is the responsibility of the parents and the Parish community. The role of the Catholic school and Parish Catechist program is to support and formalise the faith formation which happens in the home. It is important that children experience their parents as their first educators in faith and that Catholic practice is something they associate primarily with home, rather than school.

We look forward to supporting you and your child as they take the next step in their faith journey and help to deepen your child's relationship with God.



Our Sacrament Team

Fr. Jeff Kleynjans
(Parish Priest)

Fr. Paul Zaher
(Assistant Priest)

Peggy Harvey
(Pastoral Associate/Catechist Program)

Tara Bau
(Sacrament Program Co-ordinator)

Pamela Mckillop
(REL, St Michael's PS)

Rian Prestwich
(REL, St Catherine's PS)

Michael Tomkins
(REL, St Brigid's PS)

And our many volunteers and parish staff who help make this happen.

**Our team works together to provide support and encouragement for families.
We plan and help to organise the preparation and celebration of the Sacraments.**

Policy for full Initiation of children into the Sacramental Life of the Faith Community

Here at St Michael's Parish, we are committed to a ***Family centred, Parish based, School and Catechist supported Sacrament Program*** as outlined in the Sale Diocesan Policy. We believe that the Sacraments of Initiation are part of a process that takes place over many years. They begin with Baptism and include Communion and Reconciliation. The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated during this time. There are many people who play a role in this process.

The Role of Families

Parents are the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith, particularly by the example of their lives. Parents are also the most influential teachers of their children. Nobody else has the same power to shape the attitudes and values of a child. Your involvement in Sacrament preparation can never be replaced. The practice of your faith is the best example you can give. Knowledge is not the key factor here, but faith and a willingness to spend time sharing that faith with your child.

Parents and guardians are expected:

- ☐ To register their child for the sacrament, read the information provided & ask questions if needed.
- ☐ To attend regular masses especially Commitment and Blessing Masses.
- ☐ To attend one Parent/Child Workshop.
- ☐ To return all relevant paperwork, etc. by the due date.
- ☐ To assist your child with the preparation workbook.

The Role of the Parish

A Christian family lives within a wider Parish Community which also has a responsibility to share its faith and nurture your child. The Parish is responsible for coordinating Sacrament preparation and for providing any necessary resources. This is a role of assisting families who are involved in the Sacrament program, and of providing faith education for both adults and children.

The Role of the Parish School

One of the ways in which the Parish fulfils its responsibilities in Sacrament preparation is through the involvement of the Parish School. Units relevant to the Sacraments are taught at every level of the school (Foundation-Year 6). This means that the children's understanding and learning is helped to develop throughout their school life at a level appropriate to them.

The Role of the Catechist Program

This program is available for children not attending one of our Parish Catholic Schools. It is offered in preparation for each Sacrament.

Sacrament Dates 2024

CONFIRMATION

Enrolment	Tuesday 12 th March 2pm-5pm Wednesday 13 th March 5pm-7pm Thursday 14 th March 9am-12pm ALL IN PARISH SUPPORT CENTRE
Commitment Mass Workshops	16 th & 17 th March at any regular Parish Mass. *A parent & child required to attend one Workshop* Mon 27 th & Tues 28 th May at 5pm & 7pm and Tues 4 th & Wed 5 th June at 5pm & 7pm ALL IN PARISH SUPPORT CENTRE
Blessing Mass Ceremonies	1 st & 2 nd June at any regular Parish Mass. June: Friday 14 th at 5pm & 7:30pm Saturday 15 th at 11am & 2pm ALL TAKE PLACE AT SFX HALL, BEACONSFIELD
Catechist Classes	Begin 16/17 April finish 21/22 May (Children in non-parish schools) Child to attend class once a week on either Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon, from 4-5pm in the Parish Support Centre.

RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Enrolment	Tuesday 18 th June 2pm-5pm Wednesday 19 th June 5pm-7pm Thursday 20 th June 9am-12pm ALL IN PARISH SUPPORT CENTRE
Commitment Mass Workshops	22 nd & 23 rd June at any regular Parish Mass. *A parent & child required to attend one Workshop* Mon 19 th & Tues 20 th August at 5pm & 7pm and Tues 27 th to Wed 28 th August at 5pm & 7pm ALL IN PARISH SUPPORT CENTRE
Blessing Mass Ceremonies:	14 th & 15 th September at any regular Parish Mass. Reconciliation ceremonies will take place over the last 2 weeks of Term 3 with details of place and times to follow. Communion ceremonies will occur during October across most weekends at St Michael's Church with dates and times to follow.
Catechist Classes	Begin 17/18 July finish 28/29 August (Children in non-parish schools) Child to attend class once a week on either Wednesday or Thursday afternoon, from 4-5pm in the Parish Support Centre.