



# ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC PARISH

**ONE PARISH - SIX CHURCHES - MANY NEEDS - WORKING TOGETHER**

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29<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Each year the Sacramental program is organised by the Parish in order to help the children in the Catholic, Private and Public-school systems receive the Sacraments of initiation in the Catholic community. While the school based Religious Education Curriculum supports and enriches our Sacramental program, the church recognises that the parents are the first educators of their children's development in faith. As parents you presented your child for Baptism into the Catholic Church and promised to nurture their faith. Hence, the program is Parish based so parents can be involved with their children on this journey of spiritual development.

As the school and work year is starting to wrap up, planning for the year ahead is a crucial element in anyone's life especially that of the children.

The enrolment period for a particular Sacrament will precede the first lesson by approximately 3 weeks to allow adequate time for forms to be taken, filled out and returned. This will be possible at the weekend Masses or from the Parish office during the specified enrolment period.

In 2024, we will be offering two options for the lessons for Each Sacramental program - one during the week, or one on Sunday before Mass. The lessons will take approximately one hour. Families are still required to attend Mass each weekend during the duration of the program.

There will be parent and caregivers' information in Week 2, Term 1, 2024 on Tuesday 6 February at 6.30pm. This will take place in the school hall (St Paul's, Moss Vale) and will be an opportunity to explain in more detail, information regarding the Sacramental program and to answer any questions or queries that may arise. This will also allow the Sacramental team a chance to gauge how many children may be expected at a particular sacrament. Attendance is highly encouraged.

The dates for the Sacramental Program for 2024 are as follows:

***First Reconciliation (4 weeks):***

Enrolments: 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb – 25<sup>th</sup> Feb

Classes held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March

No class on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March (Easter Sunday)

*(Weekday class options TBC)*

**Sacrament of First Reconciliation for St Paul's Moss Vale students Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April** (after the 9.30am Mass)

**Sacrament of First Reconciliation for State & Private students Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 5pm**

***Confirmation (5 weeks): Term 3 (Dates TBC)***

This is subject to the Bishop's availability

***First Holy Communion (4 weeks plus rehearsal):***

Enrolments: 28<sup>th</sup> Sep - 20<sup>th</sup> Oct

Classes held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Oct, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Nov

*(Weekday class options TBC)*

Confession: St Paul's Moss Vale students Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 10am

State & Private school students Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 5pm

**Sacrament of First Holy Communion Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

The order and the structure of the program is to allow for proper planning for the coming year's events as well as a chance for children who have missed a particular Sacrament. The Sacraments of Initiation are based on the faith of the parents and their children who are willing to receive the Sacraments within the Catholic Church. That is why you should be aware that you are not forced to present your child/children for the Sacraments. If you feel that your child is not ready then you are always welcome to come back for the following year.

Once again thank you for your support and cooperation in the Sacramental Program and we look forward to meeting the children and yourselves in the coming year of 2024.

Kind regards

*Fr Marek Dutkiewicz*

Fr Marek Dutkiewicz, o.s.p.p.e

Parish Priest

*Catherine du Bois*

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Religious Education Coordinator