

ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC PARISH

ONE PARISH - SIX CHURCHES - MANY NEEDS - WORKING TOGETHER

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15th January 2025

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.

The enrolment period for a particular Sacrament will precede the first lesson by approximately 2-3 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 2025, lessons for each Sacramental program will be held at 8.30am before 10am Sunday Mass at St Paul's Moss Vale. The lessons will take approximately one hour. Families are required to attend Mass each weekend during the duration of the program. You can attend any of the weekend Masses in the parish, if you are unable to commit to the 10am.

There will be two parent and caregivers' information nights on Tuesday 18 February at 6.30pm for First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion and Wednesday 23 July for Confirmation. These 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 2025 are as follows:

Sacrament of First Reconciliation (Before Holy Week)

First Reconciliation (4 weeks):

Enrolments: 22nd February – 9th March

Classes held on Sunday 16th, 23th, 30th March & 6th April

Sacrament of Confirmation 24th September 2025

Confirmation (5 weeks)

Enrolments: 26th July – 10th August

Classes held on Sunday 17th, 24th, 31st August, 14th & 21st September
(No class on 7th September)

Sacrament of First Holy Communion Sunday 23rd November

First Holy Communion (4 weeks plus rehearsal):

Enrolments: 27th September- 19th October

Classes held on Sunday 26th October, 2nd, 9th & 16th November

Please be aware that if your child misses 50% of class lessons, it will be necessary for them to postpone the Sacrament until next year. This is necessary as your child must have a full understanding of the Sacrament they are preparing for.

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.

Kind regards



Fr Marek Dutkiewicz, OSPPE

Parish Priest