



10 October 2016

Dear Friends,

As so many people are already preparing their 2017 diaries, I have decided to publish, before the end of the school year, the dates for our parish celebrations of Confirmation, First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion (Eucharist) in 2017. I ask that you take note of the dates and include them now in your diaries. I also hope, as these 2017 dates are being sent out now, that families will be able to work their other commitments around these dates and make the celebration of these sacraments and the sacramental preparation lessons **a priority**.

The parish's weekly celebration of the Mass is at the heart of the preparation program for all the sacraments. While particular weekends are set down in the attached calendar as weekends where candidates will be asked to return homework sheets and other projects, it is my hope that all those presenting children for the sacraments in 2017 will see **attendance and participation at Mass a priority, every weekend**, whether it is specified in the sacramental program or not. While catechists, teachers and members of the parish sacramental team will, once again in 2017, support our parish sacramental programs, **the most important 'teachers'** for the children preparing for these sacraments **will be you**, their parents and families. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says: "parents are called to be the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith."

**The 2017 dates for these sacraments are to be found on the attached sheets.** It is essential, if you want your child/ren to receive any of these sacraments, that you attend the Parent Information Night for the relevant sacrament.

**Please note: that the Parent Information Night for Confirmation 2017  
will be held on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016.**

In our parish, baptised children in Year 3 and above, can make their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, and children in Year 6 and above, who have made their First Holy Communion, can receive Confirmation.

**If your child has not been baptised Catholic, or was baptised in another Christian denomination and you would like them received into the Catholic Church, please contact me directly to arrange a time we can organise these ceremonies.** Many children who are not baptised Catholics will often raise this during an RE lesson. Any support you can give your child to make this step to become a member of the Catholic faith is **a gift from you that will shape the rest of their lives**. Don't hesitate to email [oranparksacraments@dow.org.au](mailto:oranparksacraments@dow.org.au) for any information you need on Baptism or the Catholic faith in general.

For more information on our 2017 sacramental program please email  
**[oranparksacraments@dow.org.au](mailto:oranparksacraments@dow.org.au)**  
More information about our parish can also be found on our website  
**[marymackillopparish.org.au](http://marymackillopparish.org.au)**

Be assured of my prayers for you and your families.

Fr.

Fr David Catterall MTh, Parish Priest

## 2017 Sacraments @ St Mary MacKillop Parish Oran Park

### CONFIRMATION

Any children in Year 6, 2017 (or above) who have been baptised Catholic and have received their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion can receive their Confirmation.

**Wed 9 November 2016**

**Confirmation Parent Information Night** (7pm – 8.30pm)  
at Southern Mass Centre, 94 Oran Park Drive, Oran Park.

*At this Parent Information Night we will explain the various 'steps' associated with preparing for Confirmation, along with practical details regarding the workshops/lessons and the actual Confirmation ceremonies. The enrolment form for Confirmation will also be handed out at this Parent Information Night.*

<b>12/13 November 2016</b> <b>19/20 November 2016</b>	ALL Enrolment forms need to returned on the weekends of 12/13 November OR 19/20 November
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Week One workshops begin
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Week Two workshops begin
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	Week Three workshops begin
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	Week Four workshops begin
TBC	Confirmation Retreat Day
TBC	Confirmation Ceremonies (depending on Bishop's 2017 diary)

**How do I book a workshop?** At the Parent Information Night the workshop times/days will be announced. You will be able to make a booking for a workshop by going to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code) and entering the event code that will be provided at the Parent Information Night.

**What about booking a time for a Confirmation Ceremony?** You will be able to make bookings for a Confirmation ceremony via the same website [www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code) and entering the event code that will also be provided at the Parent Information Night.

## FIRST RECONCILIATION

Any children who have been baptised Catholic and are in Year 3, (or above) in 2017, can receive their First Reconciliation.

Wed 26<sup>th</sup> April     **First Reconciliation Parent Information Night** (7pm – 8.30pm)  
at Southern Mass Centre, 94 Oran Park Drive, Oran Park.

*At this Parent Information Night we will explain the various 'steps' associated with preparing for First Reconciliation, along with practical details regarding the workshops/lessons and the actual First Reconciliation ceremonies. The enrolment form for First Reconciliation will also be handed out at this Parent Information Night.*

29 <sup>th</sup> /30 <sup>th</sup> April 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> May	ALL Enrolment forms need to be returned on the weekends of 29 <sup>th</sup> /30 <sup>th</sup> April or 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> May
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Week One workshops begin
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Week Two workshops begin
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Week Three workshops begin
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Week Four workshops begin
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	First Reconciliation Retreat Day
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> June Thur 15 <sup>th</sup> June Tue 20 <sup>th</sup> June	First Reconciliation Ceremonies held in the evening (Times: TBC)

**How do I book a workshop?** At the Parent Information Night the workshop times/days will be announced. You will be able to make a booking for a **workshop** by going to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code) and entering the event code that will be provided at the Parent Information Night.

**What about booking a time for a First Reconciliation Ceremony?** You will be able to make bookings for a First Reconciliation **ceremony** via the same website [www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code) and entering the event code that will also be provided at the Parent Information Night.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Any children who are in Year 3 (or above), in 2017, who have been baptised Catholic and have received their First Reconciliation, can receive their First Holy Communion.

Wed 19<sup>th</sup> July **First Holy Communion Parent Information Night** (7pm – 8.30pm)

*At this Parent Information Night we will explain the various 'steps' associated with preparing for First Holy Communion. The enrolment form will also be handed out at this Parent Info Night.*

22 <sup>nd</sup> /23 <sup>rd</sup> July 29 <sup>th</sup> /30 <sup>th</sup> July	ALL Enrolment forms need to be returned on the weekends of 22 <sup>nd</sup> /23 <sup>rd</sup> July or 29 <sup>th</sup> /30 <sup>th</sup> July
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> August	Week One workshops begin
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> August	Week Two workshops begin
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> August	Week Three workshops begin
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> August	Week Four workshops begin
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	First Holy Communion Retreat Day
	Rehearsals for First Holy Communion Masses (7pm - 8pm): Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September (Rehearsal for Mass 1) Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September (Rehearsal for Mass 2) Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> September (Rehearsal for Mass 3) Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> September (Rehearsal for Mass 4) Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September (Rehearsal for Mass 5) Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> September (Rehearsal for Mass 6) Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> September (Rehearsal for Mass 7) Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September (Rehearsal for Mass 8)
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Mass 1:</b> First Holy Communion Mass, 5pm (Oran Park)
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Mass 2:</b> First Holy Communion Mass at 10am (Oran Park)
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Mass 3:</b> First Holy Communion Mass at 5pm (Oran Park)
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Mass 4:</b> First Holy Communion Mass, 5pm (Oran Park)
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Mass 5:</b> First Holy Communion Mass at 10am (Oran Park)
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Mass 6:</b> First Holy Communion Mass at 5pm (Oran Park)
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	<b>Mass 7:</b> First Holy Communion Mass, 5pm (Oran Park)
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Mass 8:</b> First Holy Communion Mass at 8am (Leppington)

**\*\*\* First Holy Communion Masses 1 – 7 will be celebrated at Oran Park, and First Holy Communion Mass 8 will be celebrated at Leppington.**

**How do I book a workshop?** At the Parent Information Night the workshop times/days will be announced. You will be able to make a booking for a workshop by going to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code) and entering the event code that will be provided at the Parent Information Night.

**What about booking a time for First Holy Communion Mass?** You will be able to make bookings for a First Holy Communion Mass via the same website [www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code) and entering the event code that will also be provided at the Parent Information Night.