

PARTNERS IN MISSION



St Mary MacKillop
Catholic Parish
ORAN PARK



PREPARING FOR THE
SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION
AT
ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH
ORAN PARK

2021

Dear Friends,

As so many people are already preparing their 2021 diaries, I have once again decided to publish, before the end of the school year, the dates for our parish celebrations of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion (Eucharist) and Confirmation in 2021. I ask that you take note of the dates and include them now in your diaries. I also hope, as these 2021 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 process **a priority**.

THE PURPOSE OF OUR PARISH IS

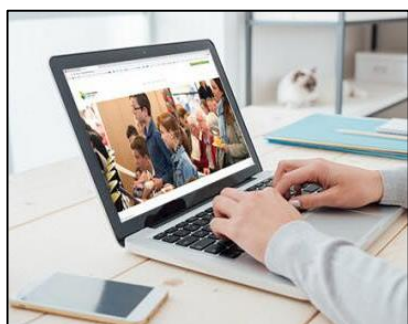
to form disciples who joyfully live out the mission of Jesus Christ

Our parish Sacramental Program is all about creating opportunities for our young parishioners *to encounter Jesus and His Holy Spirit* through the sacraments; *to find their home in the Catholic Church;* *and to thrive in faith and to joyfully live out their call as missionary disciples of Jesus!*



The purpose of our parish Sacramental Program isn't about fulfilling 'requirements' for enrolment in a Catholic school, or just fulfilling a 'rite of passage' etc.

Due to covid19 protocols that will continue to impact parish life in 2021, we will continue some of the practices we began in 2020 and change some others to reflect the 'covid-normal' world.



1) **Rather than weekly 'discipleship groups'** that candidates (accompanied by an adult family member) are required to attend at our Southern Mass Centre (Oran Park) over a 4-5 week period, **families will now be sent, via email each week over a 4 week period, a link to a YouTube 'discipleship group' workshop that they can watch whenever it is suitable to them.**

Families will be asked to find a time/day each week (that suits their schedule) when the candidate can sit down with an adult family member to watch/listen to the YouTube that will lead them through the workshop (directing them to different pages or activities in their workbook) and to then complete and submit – via a Google Form or via email - a reflection sheet (based on what has been shared/learnt in the YouTube).

2) While we know that the weekend celebration of the **Mass is at the heart of the preparation program for all the sacraments, due to the limited numbers that can be accommodated in the church due to covid19 protocols, candidates will be required to either participate in a weekend livestream Mass (or to pre-book to attend a weekend Mass).**



3) All candidates will be required to participate - near the end of the preparation process - in an online **"Encountering Jesus Together" Reflection Session**. This reflection session – again made available for families to view and participate in at home - will invite conversation and active participation around the key concepts of each specific Sacrament and will offer an opportunity for candidates to see a 'rehearsal' of how they will celebrate the Sacrament. During this session, candidates will gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament and how it relates to them, their families, their parish, and the world.

4) In terms of the 'order of the sacraments' in the 2021 calendar, **1st Reconciliation will be prepared for in Term 1, 1st Holy Communion in Term 2 and Confirmation in Term 3.**



5) **We will be encouraging all the parents and adult family members of those young people who are preparing for the sacraments to take part in Alpha**, that is not so much a course, but an experience!

Gathering once a week over a 10 - 12 week period, each Alpha experience brings together people from every walk of life. The format of Alpha is always the same. We begin each Alpha gathering by sharing food, then we watch a video, have a break for coffee and finally a small group discussion.

By encouraging and inviting all adult family members to prepare for their child's sacraments by taking part in Alpha, we want to reclaim the fact that as the first educators of their children in the faith, adult family members are called to be the 'faith-leaders' of their family through their example, through their witness to their children of the importance of Jesus in their lives, through the way they prepare their children each time they go to Reconciliation or to Mass and through the choices they make about how their family will engage in the living out of our faith.

The **dates for our 2021 Alpha experiences** will be announced via our parish e-newsletter 'The Overview' and our parish Facebook and Twitter pages and parish website, and invitations sent to families, via email, after their sacramental enrolment.

The Parish Leadership Team, Parish Sacramental Team and I look forward in journeying with you and your families during 2021 as we support these children to prepare for the Sacraments.

Fr. 

Fr David Catterall MTh, Parish Priest
12 December 2020

For more info. on our 2021 sacramental program contact:
oranparksacraments@dow.org.au

**Please also ensure you are 'signed up' to receive each week
our parish e-newsletter 'THE OVERVIEW'**

You can 'sign up' via the link on the homepage of our parish website
www.marymackillopparish.org.au

BAPTISM CERTIFICATES: If a candidate was not baptised in St Mary MacKillop Parish, Oran Park a copy of their baptism certificate will be required to be presented at the Information Session. Families who need a copy of their child's baptism certificate are encouraged to access this now from the parish of their child's baptism, so they have it ready to hand in at the Info Session.

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS: It is essential, if you want your child/ren to receive any of the sacraments of initiation, that an adult family member (from the same household as the candidate) attend the Parent Information Session for the relevant sacrament. **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.**

In 2021, the Parent Information Sessions for:

First Reconciliation will be held on Tuesday, 16th February 2021

First Holy Communion will be held on Wednesday, 28th April 2021

Confirmation will be held on Wednesday, 21st July 2021

Mindful that due to covid19 protocols that restrict the number of people that can be in the Oran Park Mass Centre at the one time: **we will be running two Information Sessions on the same day – a session at 4.30pm-5.30pm, and a session from 6.30pm-7.30pm.**

(Families are only required to attend one of these information sessions

– and will be required due to covid protocols to PRE-REGISTER TO ATTEND

THE INFORMATION SESSION - Registration details will be supplied closest to the date)

At these Parent Information Sessions to be held at Southern Mass Centre, 94 Oran Park Drive, Oran Park we will explain the various ‘steps’ associated with preparing for the Sacrament, along with practical details regarding the online workshops, the weekly reflection sheet, the Alpha experience for adult family members and the actual ceremonies. –

If a candidate was not baptised at St Mary MacKillop Parish, a copy of their baptism certificate must be brought to this Parent Information Session.

We will also be asking that families bring to this Information Session, their ‘**sacramental offering**’ of \$50 per candidate to assist with the books/medals and other materials*** needed to run the sacramental program.

A ‘tap and go facility’ will be available at the Information Session for those who like to make this offering via credit card.

*** Due to covid19 protocols our parish facilities (where our sacramental info sessions, 1st Reconciliation & Confirmation ceremonies and 1st HC Masses, and other associated events are held) need to be professionally cleaned, and also those assisting with these info sessions and liturgies/Masses need to wear PPE (such as facial masks, gloves etc) – so your 2021 ‘sacramental offering’ goes to offset these costs of now running a parish sacramental program in our ‘covid-normal world’

VENUES FOR THE SACRAMENTS: While 1st Reconciliation ceremonies will be celebrated in our Southern Mass Centre (Oran Park), our 2021 Confirmation Ceremonies and First Holy Communion Masses will hopefully be held in the Hall (on Hollows Drive) currently under construction between St Justin’s and St Benedict’s.

TWO QUESTIONS THAT YOU MIGHT BE ASKING:

- ✓ **If my child/ren are not baptised or have been baptised in a Christian church other than Catholic, is it possible for my child/children to make their First Reconciliation and/or First Holy Communion?** Yes, it is possible. Please contact oranparksacraments@dow.org.au for more information.
- ✓ **Does my child have to make a sacrament just because their classmates are, or they are in Yr 3 or Yr 6?** No, your child does not need to make a sacrament simply because of the year group they are in, or their class. Only those who participate in parish life and who know they will be able to prioritise the time for their child to prepare for the sacraments in 2021 should enrol. We have many children who wait till a later age to receive sacraments.

2021 Sacraments @ St Mary MacKillop Parish Oran Park

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Any children who have been baptised Catholic and are in Year 3, (or above) in 2021, can receive their First Reconciliation.

Tuesday 16th February 2021: First Reconciliation Parent Information Session

(4.30pm – 5.30pm OR 6.30pm – 7.30pm)

at Southern Mass Centre, 94 Oran Park Drive, Oran Park.

At this Parent Information Session we will explain the various 'steps' associated with preparing for First Reconciliation, along with practical details regarding the online workshops, the weekly reflection sheets, the online Reflection session, the Alpha experience for adult family members and the actual First Reconciliation ceremonies.

The child's workbook for First Reconciliation will also be handed out at this Parent Info. Session.

Sunday 30 th January 2021	Online Enrolment form will be available via the parish website www.marymackillopparish.org.au (The online enrolment forms must be submitted no later than 12noon on Sunday 14 th February 2021)
Wednesday 24 th February 2021 7pm-8pm (via Zoom)	Information Session – via Zoom - for families who wish their child/children to make their First Reconciliation and/or First Holy Communion BUT whose children are not baptised or have been baptised in a Christian church other than Catholic. NOTE: This information session is <u>in addition to</u> the Parent Information Session for 1 st Reconciliation to be held on Tuesday 16 th February 2021
Sunday 21 st February 2021	1 st 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 27/28 February
Sunday 28 th February 2021	2 nd 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 6/7 March
Sunday 7 th March 2021	3 rd 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 13/14 March
Sunday 14 th March 2021	4 th 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 20/21 March
Saturday 20 th March 2021	ENCOUNTERING JESUS TOGETHER Reflection Session (made available via YouTube)
Monday 22 nd March 2021 – Thursday 25 th March 2021	First Reconciliation Ceremonies to held (Times/Venues/Days: TBC)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Any children who are in Year 3 (or above), in 2021, who have been baptised Catholic and have received their First Reconciliation, can receive their First Holy Communion.

Wednesday 28th April 2021: **First Holy Communion Parent Information Session**

(4.30pm – 5.30pm OR 6.30pm – 7.30pm)

at Southern Mass Centre, 94 Oran Park Drive, Oran Park.

At this Parent Information Session, we will explain the various 'steps' associated with preparing for First Holy Communion, along with practical details regarding the online workshops, the weekly reflection sheets, the online Reflection session, the Alpha experience for adult family members and the actual First Holy Communion Masses.

The child's workbook for First Holy Communion will also be handed out at this Info. Session.

Sunday 28 th March 2021	Online Enrolment form will be available via the parish website www.marymackillopparish.org.au (The online enrolment forms must be submitted no later than 12noon on Sunday 18 th April 2021)
Sunday 2 nd May 2021	1 st 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 8/9 May
Sunday 9 th May 2021	2 nd 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 15/16 May
Sunday 16 th May 2021	3 rd 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 22/23 May
Sunday 23 rd May 2021	4 th 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 29/30 May
Sunday 30 th May 2021	5 th 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: <i>focused on practicalities in receiving 1st Holy Communion</i>
Saturday 5 th June 2021	ENCOUNTERING JESUS TOGETHER Reflection Session (made available via YouTube)
Mid-June 2021	1st Holy Communion Masses to held in mid-June before school holidays (Times/Venues/Days: TBC)

1st Holy Communion INSTRUCTIONAL MASS

The date and time for this weekday Mass that all candidates are required to attend, accompanied by one adult family member, will be announced at the Parent Information Session

CONFIRMATION

Any children in Year 6, 2021 OR Yr 7, 2021 (or above) who have been baptised Catholic and have received their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion can receive their Confirmation.

Wednesday 21st July 2021: **Confirmation Parent Information Session**

(4.30pm – 5.30pm OR 6.30pm – 7.30pm)

at Southern Mass Centre, 94 Oran Park Drive, Oran Park.

At this Parent Information Session, we will explain the various 'steps' associated with preparing for Confirmation, along with practical details regarding the online workshops, the weekly reflection sheets, the online Reflection session, the Alpha experience for adult family members and the actual Confirmation ceremonies.

The child's workbook for Confirmation will also be handed out at this Info. Session.

Sunday 20 th June 2021	Online Enrolment form will be available via the parish website www.marymackillopparish.org.au (The online enrolment forms must be submitted no later than 12noon on Sunday 11 th July 2021)
Sunday 25 th July 2021	1 st 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 31July/1Aug
Sunday 1 st August 2021	2 nd 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 7/8 Aug
Sunday 8 th August 2021	3 rd 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 14/15 Aug
Sunday 15 th August 2021	4 th 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 21/22 Aug
Sunday 22 nd August 2021	5 th 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 28/29 Aug
Saturday 28 th August 2021	ENCOUNTERING JESUS TOGETHER Reflection Session (made available via YouTube)
	Confirmation Ceremonies: Times TBC Date: near the end of Term 3 before school holidays; The actual date depends on Bishop's 2021 diary)



St Mary MacKillop
Catholic Parish
ORAN PARK

our vision

Sharing the sacred land of the Dharawal people, the parish of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop at Leppington and Oran Park is a family of diverse families.

We are sustained by the **Sacraments** and nurtured in our faith in **Jesus Christ**.

We are a parish that **embraces** everyone with radical hospitality.

We are a parish that **serves** with humility.

We are a parish that **nourishes** the faith of all.

We are a parish that **responds** to the needs of our neighbours, wherever they may be.

We are the parish of Mary MacKillop.



PARISH PRAYER

O God,
you show us in
St Mary MacKillop, our patron,
a woman of faith who lived
by the power of the Cross
and who remained open to your will.

Teach us to embrace what
St Mary MacKillop pioneered.
Teach us new ways to live
the Gospel here in our parish.

Trusting in your providence
and nourished by
Word and Sacrament,
may we grow in our
relationship with you,
and together make our parish
a community of communities,
a sanctuary where
the thirsty come to drink
in the midst of their journey,
and a centre of constant
missionary outreach.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

