

**THERE ARE
3 FOUNDATIONS
TO THE SACRAMENTAL
PREPARATION PROCESS AT
ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH:**



1) Rather than **weekly ‘discipleship groups’** that candidates (accompanied by an adult family member) have in the past been required to attend over a 4–6 week period, **families are now sent, via email each week over a 4-6 week period, a link to a YouTube ‘discipleship group’ workshop that they can watch whenever it is suitable to them.**

Families are 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 a reflection sheet (based on what has been shared/learnt in the YouTube) that the candidate will be required to complete and return to a weekend Mass.

2) Rather than the focus on weekly ‘workshops’ we want to reclaim the weekend celebration of the Mass **as the heart of the preparation program for all the sacraments.** All those presenting children for the sacraments are asked to see **attendance and participation at Mass a priority, every weekend**, whether it is specified in the sacramental program or not. *(During the weeks of the program some candidates will also be involved in weekend Mass parish ministries)*

3) While catechists, parish clergy, teachers and members of the parish sacramental team will support our parish sacramental programs, **parents and families will be reminded throughout the program that they are the most important “teachers” for their children preparing for these sacraments.**

Also, 1st Reconciliation and 1st Holy Communion is a combined program of 6 weeks. So rather than families committing to one program for 1st Reconciliation and then another program for 1st Holy Communion, candidates will prepare for both Sacraments at the same time. The focus of this combined program is *“From Mass to Mission”* that draws upon the purpose statement of our parish *“to form disciples who joyfully live out the mission of Jesus Christ”*.

(If a child has already made their 1st Reconciliation, and was just wanting to receive their 1st Holy Communion, they are still required to complete the 6-week program)

Also, the celebration of 1st Reconciliation for those candidates who attend St Justin’s Primary School or St Gregory’s College Junior School will occur during school time. All other candidates will have the opportunity to receive their 1st Reconciliation at sessions held in the afternoon/evening of the same week.