

**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, 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation and 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion is a combined program of 6 weeks.** So rather than families committing to one program for 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation and then another program for 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation, and was just wanting to receive their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion, they are still required to complete the 6-week program)

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