

PARTNERS IN MISSION



St Mary MacKillop
Catholic Parish
ORAN PARK



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

2020

Dear Friends,

As so many people are already preparing their 2020 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 2020. I ask that you take note of the dates and include them now in your diaries. I also hope, as these 2020 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.

So faithful to our parish purpose and OUR VISION - while at the same time being mindful that families in our exponentially growing parish are busier than ever - **2020 will mark the beginning of a whole new process for sacramental preparation in our parish.**

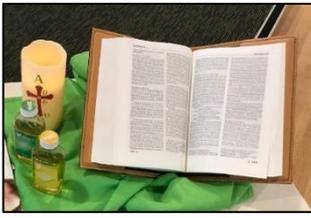
There will be 5 main changes to our parish sacramental preparation process in 2020:



1) From 2020, **rather than weekly 'discipleship groups'** that candidates (accompanied by an adult family member) have up to now been 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 a reflection sheet (based on what has been shared/learnt in the YouTube) that the candidate will be required to bring to a weekend parish Mass and to drop off in a special box that will be available at both our Northern and Southern Mass Centres.

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.** Not only will candidates be required to bring a weekly reflection sheet to a parish Mass over particular weekends as set down in the attached calendar, it is my hope that all those presenting children for the sacraments in 2020 will see **attendance and participation at Mass a priority, every weekend**, whether it is specified in the sacramental program or not. There are many demands placed on families today, especially around weekend sport and other weekend events, however candidates preparing for the sacraments need to see that the weekend – and in particular Sunday - isn't just for sport or other pursuits but **an opportunity to encounter Jesus in the midst of the faith community we call the 'parish'**. While it's understandable that there is a high desire for children to participate in weekend sport and other pursuits because they are fun, and everyone wants to do their best in competition and to win if possible, *"Our faith often calls us to set aside the joys of this world to focus on transcendent joys that go beyond our life here and now."*



3) All candidates, accompanied by an adult family, will be required to attend an **“Encountering Jesus Together” Reflection Day**. These reflection days – to be held on the precinct of our Southern Mass centre (Oran Park) will invite conversation and active participation around the key concepts of each specific Sacrament, and have the candidates involved, excited, energised and motivated by experiencing hands-on activities, great new music, scripture and prayer. Candidates will gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament and how it relates to them, their families, their parish, and the world.

As it will be (other than participation at weekend Masses) the only ‘face to face’ component of the sacramental program, **attendance at this Reflection Day will be a compulsory part of the program**. Therefore if a candidate (accompanied by an adult family member) isn’t able to attend the Reflection Day for the sacrament they are preparing for, we ask that the family decide to have their child receive the Sacrament in a neighbouring parish (where attendance at such a day isn’t required and weekly lessons are the mode of delivery of the sacramental program) or defer their child’s preparation till another time.

4) Responding to feedback from families involved in our 2018 and 2019 Sacramental Programs, **we have decided to change the order of when sacraments of initiation are celebrated in our parish**. Up to now, Confirmation has been prepared for and celebrated in Term 1, with 1st Reconciliation and 1st Holy Communion prepared for and celebrated in Terms 2 and 3.
- From 2020, 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 2020 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 hope that you, like us, will be excited about this fresh and supportive approach to sacramental preparation. We hope and pray that this new model of preparing our young parishioners for the sacraments will be relevant, engaging and inspiring.

Fr. 

Fr David Catterall MTh, Parish Priest
16 September 2019

For more information on our 2020 sacramental program contact:
oranparksacraments@dow.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 at the time of enrolment. 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 time of enrolment.

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS: It is essential, if you want your child/ren to receive any of the sacraments of initiation, that you attend the Parent Information Night 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 2020, the Parent Information Sessions for:
First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2020
will be held on Wednesday, 13th November 2019 and
Confirmation 2020 will be held on Wednesday, 22nd July 2020

Responding to the feedback from families involved in our 2018 and 2019 Sacramental Programs and mindful of the limited space in our Oran Park Mass Centre to gather, **we will be running two Information Sessions on the same day – a session at 3.30pm-5pm, and a session from 7pm-8.30pm. (Families are only required to attend one of these information sessions)** 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 sheets, the Reflection Day, the Alpha experience for adult family members and the actual ceremonies.

- The enrolment form for the Sacrament will also be handed out at this Parent Information Session.
- No enrolment forms will be able to be collected from the Parish Office or schools or catechists.

Please note: Again in response to feedback from families involved in our 2018 and 2019 Sacramental Programs there will be a combined information session for both '1st Reconciliation and 1st Holy Communion', rather than an information session for each Sacrament.

VENUES FOR THE SACRAMENTS: While 1st Reconciliation ceremonies will be celebrated in our Southern Mass Centre (Oran Park), our 2020 Confirmation Ceremonies and First Holy Communion Masses will be held in the Hall at St Gregory's College, Gregory Hills.

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. We will be holding an Information Session (on Sunday 1st March - prior to the start of the First Reconciliation preparation program) 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. This information session, to be held after our 10am Sunday Mass (Oran Park) is in addition to the Parent Information Session for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Families who need to attend this meeting, will be asked to RSVP via the enrolment form that will be handed out at the Info. Session.
- ✓ **If we don't have access to the internet, and wouldn't be able to watch the weekly YouTube 'discipleship group' workshops can my child/ren still prepare for the sacraments?** Yes, it is possible. Any families who don't have access to the internet, or who would rather their child watch the 'weekly YouTube workshop' with others, will be able to gather with a facilitator each week of the program on Sundays from 3.30pm-4.30pm in the Penola Room (next to our Southern Mass Centre). Families who require this option, will be asked to mark it on the enrolment form that will be handed out at the Info. Session.

2020 Sacraments @ St Mary MacKillop Parish Oran Park

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Any children who have been baptised Catholic and are in Year 3, (or above) in 2020, can receive their First Reconciliation.

Wed 13th November **2019**: Combined **First Reconciliation and 1st Holy Communion Parent Information Session** (3.30pm – 5pm OR 7pm – 8.30pm)
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 and First Holy Communion, along with practical details regarding the online workshops, the weekly reflection sheets, the Reflection Day, the Alpha experience for adult family members and the actual First Reconciliation ceremonies and First Communion Masses. The enrolment form for First Reconciliation and First Communion Masses will also be handed out at this Parent Information Session.

16 th /17 th November <u>2019</u> 23 rd /24 th November <u>2019</u>	ALL Enrolment forms need to be returned on the weekends of 16 th /17 th November 2019 <u>or</u> 23 rd /24 th November 2019
Sunday 1 st March 2020 (11.15am-12noon) at Southern Mass Centre, 94 Oran Park Drive, Oran Park	Information Session 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 Rec/1 st Holy Communion held on Wednesday 13 th Nov. 2019
29 th Feb/1 st March 2020	1st Reconciliation Commitment Weekend – candidates are required to attend a weekend Mass on 29 th Feb/1 st March
Sunday 1 st March 2020	1 st 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 7/8 March
Sunday 8 th March 2020	2 nd 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 14/15 March
Sunday 15 th March 2020	3 rd 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 21/22 March
Sunday 22 nd March 2020	ENCOUNTERING JESUS TOGETHER Reflection Day (9.30am to 3pm – finishing with 3pm Mass)
Sunday 22 nd March 2020	4 th 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 28/29 March
Tuesday 31 st March 2020 Wednesday 1 st April 2020	First Reconciliation Ceremonies held in the afternoon & evening (Times: TBC)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Any children who are in Year 3 (or above), in 2020, who have been baptised Catholic and have received their First Reconciliation, can receive their First Holy Communion.

Wed 6th May 2020: **1st Holy Communion INSTRUCTIONAL MASS**
(3.30pm-5pm OR 7pm-8.30pm)

- all candidates required to attend with one adult family member.

Sunday 26 th April 2020	1 st 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 2/3 May
2 nd /3 rd May 2020	1st Holy Communion Commitment Weekend – candidates are required to attend a weekend Mass on 2/3 May
Sunday 3 rd May 2020	2 nd 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 9/10 May
Sunday 10 th May 2020	3 rd 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 16/17 May
Sunday 17 th May 2020	<i>ENCOUNTERING JESUS TOGETHER</i> Reflection Day (9.30am to 3pm – finishing with 3pm Mass)
Sunday 17 th May 2020	4 th 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 23/24 May
Sunday 24 th May 2020	5 th 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out <i>focused on practicalities in receiving 1st Holy Communion</i>
Sunday 31 st May 2020 Br Luke Hall, St Gregory's College, Gregory Hills	First Holy Communion Masses: 9.30am, 12.30pm and 3pm

CONFIRMATION

Any children in Year 6, 2020 (or above) who have been baptised Catholic and have received their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion can receive their Confirmation.

Wednesday 22nd July 2020: Confirmation Parent Information Session

(3.30pm – 5pm OR 7pm – 8.30pm)

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 Reflection Day, the Alpha experience for adult family members and the actual Confirmation ceremonies. The enrolment form for Confirmation will also be handed out at this Parent Information Session.

25 th /26 th July 2020 1 st /2 nd August 2020	ALL Enrolment forms need to be returned on the weekends of 25 th /26 th July 2020 <u>or</u> 1 st /2 nd August 2020
8 th /9 th August 2020	Confirmation Commitment Weekend – candidates are required to attend a weekend Mass on 8 th /9 th August
Sunday 9 th August 2020	1 st 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 15/16 August
Sunday 16 th August 2020	2 nd 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 22/23 August
Sunday 23 rd August 2020	3 rd 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 29/30 August
Sunday 30 th August 2020	<i>ENCOUNTERING JESUS TOGETHER</i> Reflection Day (9.30am to 3pm – finishing with 3pm Mass)
Sunday 30 th August 2020	4 th 'YouTube Discipleship Group' workshop will be emailed out: reflection sheet returned on weekend of 5/6 September
Saturday or Sunday** Br Luke Hall, St Gregory's College, Gregory Hills	Confirmation Ceremonies: 10am & 2pm (** Date: near the end of Term 3 before school holidays; The actual date depends on Bishop's 2020 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.

