

ST JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC PARISH

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21 November 2023

Sacraments 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The wonderful privilege of passing on Faith in Christ Jesus our Lord has its heart in the family. Parents/guardians, you make this real when you bring your children for Baptism with great joy and hope and love. It is the start of something special for you and your family.

The Church family, centred on the Parish, shares that joy and welcomes you and your children as part of this larger family.

The Parish of St Joan of Arc, eager to continue this journey with you, offers you a parish-based, family centred approach to the next stages of the journey. It is an approach that affirms the place of parents/guardians as “the first and foremost educators of their children”¹

In practical terms, this approach will complete the Sacraments of Initiation that began with Baptism, namely Sacraments of Eucharist (Holy Communion) and Confirmation and will include the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation/Confession).

The Sacraments are likely to occur during the following school terms.

Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation/Confession): Term One

Sacrament of Confirmation: Term Two

Sacrament of Eucharist (Holy Communion): Term Four

With my retirement at the end of the year and a new Parish Priest to be appointed, the dates cannot be finalised until next year. To ensure correspondence with you as soon as dates are confirmed, please complete the google form on the parish website expressing an interest in your child being involved in the Sacramental journey for 2024. This form can be found on the parish website under “Sacraments 2024” heading.

Website link: <http://www.stjoanofarc.org.au/>.

Please complete the expression of interest form if your child is eligible for any of the Sacraments listed above right through 2024. Not having a form completed may potentially mean that your child may miss out for 2024.

Closing date for the completion of the form is Wednesday 20th December 2023.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Candidates for the *Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation/Confession)* will normally be in Year 2 or 3 or older if necessary and have been Baptised in the Catholic Rite.
- Candidates for the *Sacrament of Eucharist (Holy Communion)* will normally be of Year 3 age or older and have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).
- Candidates for the *Sacrament of Confirmation* will normally be of Year 6 age or older and have received First Holy Communion.

I am sure that the new Parish Priest looks forward to meeting you all and with the Sacramental Team, accompanying you and your children through the Sacramental journey, which are stages of growth for them in their friendship with Christ Jesus and their understanding of what it means to belong to God's family.

Regards and blessings.



Fr Phillip Zadro

Parish Sacramental Team & Support

Maria Condello – Parish Pastoral Associate

Amanda Gahan – Principal – St Joan of Arc, School

Jacky Guardascione – Religious Education Coordinator – St Joan of Arc, School

Greg Hill – Parish Catechist Coordinator

Belinda Bayssari – Family Educator – St Joan of Arc, School

Footnote:

1) (*Pontifical Council for the Family, Charter of the Rights of the Family*)