

Preparing for Sacraments at St Brigid's Parish

Preparing to Celebrate Sacraments starts in the homes of our families.

It starts with parents introducing their young children to the notion of God, and leading them into a life that has prayer at its centre.

Religious images kept in the home are one way some families remind their children that God loves them.

Some families introduce their children to a life of gratitude by praying prayers of thanks at the meal table. We call this a Place for Grace, to thank God for the blessings of the day.

Others help their children pray at bed times at the end of a day.

Some gather their family before a religious image at the beginning of a day before they depart for work or school. They ask God's blessing on all they will do.

The Parish has a leading role in preparing families to Celebrate Sacraments together.

Starting with Baptism, we gather families for a time of Catechesis, so that they will understand the significance of this moment of receiving the First Sacrament of Initiation as a Child of God. The other Sacraments start from here.

At St Brigid's, like many other Parishes, we provide opportunities for families to gather for several nights of preparation for the various Sacraments. This is followed by a Reflection/Retreat Day at the Parish. Through these steps, our children, no matter what school they attend, feel very much at home as a member of our Church. Our teachers and catechists in our schools reinforce the lessons learned.

The primary Catechesis comes from an active prayer life, at home, at school and within the Sunday Eucharist. A more active engagement as a member of the Church is recommended during this time.

Children's Sacraments

Children are invited to participate in Sacrament Preparation Programs in Grades 2, 3, & 6. Cost is \$30 per child, which covers resources for the home program & workshop day (including lunch). Payment is to be made with Registration. Family concession applies for 2 or more children per family in the one year. All Reflection days and Parent Formation nights will be held at St. Brigid's Parish in Shrubland Hall.

Adult Sacraments (RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Adults already Baptised who wish to consider coming into Full Communion with the Catholic Church and those wishing to be Baptised and/or Confirmed, are invited to discuss this with Sr Elena, or a member of the Parish Team. Preparation starts in August or September and continues until Pentecost the following year. Sacraments are received at the Easter Vigil.

Baptism of Infants

The sequence of dates for the Preparation for and celebration of Baptism are:

First Sunday **Baptism Preparation Sessions for Parents** after 9am Mass (10am) in the Upper Room of the Annexe.

Second Sunday **Rite of Presentation of Candidates for Baptism.** Families present their children as Candidates for Baptism at either the 9am or 10.30am Masses.

3rd & 4th Sundays **Baptisms are celebrated** at 12 noon on 3rd and 4th Sunday
Registration **Contact Terrey** our Secretary in the Parish Office.

Step 2: Reconciliation & First Communion

Over two terms, our children in Years 2-3 are invited to participate in Family Formation for Sacraments.

They receive Reconciliation in Term 4 (for Year 2 up)

and then in the following year First Communion in Term 2 for Year 3 up)

October—November 2019 Reconciliation

Children from Grade 2 up are invited to present themselves for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. After the Preparation Sessions, the Children and their families are invited to attend a Reconciliation Service and to participate in the Sacrament. The stages of the Sacrament Preparation are:

Wednesday October 16: Introductory Session for Parents Only of Children receiving **Reconciliation** (Term 4, 2019) 7-8pm in Shrubland Hall.

Sunday Oct 20: Family Formation 1 8.45-10.15am at Shrubland Hall for Parents & Candidates.

Sunday Oct 27: Family Formation 2 8.45-10.15am
Rite of Presentation Reconciliation Candidates at 10.30am Mass

Friday Nov 8: Reconciliation Reflection Day. 8.45am-2.45pm in Shrubland Hall for all children celebrating Reconciliation, children from all schools. Families should advise their schools they will be absent this day.

Thursday Nov. 14: Celebration of Reconciliation. 7-8pm in the Church for all Families. An opportunity for all family members to participate.

May—June 2020: First Communion

Continuing on from Reconciliation, the Children from Grade 3 up who have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation are now invited to present themselves to receive their First Communion. The stages of the Sacrament Preparation are:

Sunday May 10 : Family Formation 1: 8.45-10.15: In Shrubland Hall. Selection of Preferred Communion times.

Sunday May 17: Family Formation 2: 8.45-10.15: In Shrubland Hall
10.30am Mass—Presentation of Candidates

Sunday May 24 : Family Formation 3: 8.45-10.15: In Shrubland Hall.

Friday May 29: Reflection Day: 8.45am – 2.45pm at Shrubland Hall. This involves children from all schools. Government School children should advise their schools they will be absent this day.

Weekends for First Communion

Saturday May 30 @ 5pm & Sunday May 31@ 10.30am

Saturday June 6 @ 5pm & Sunday 7@ 10.30am

Reminder: These Sacraments are part of our initiation into Full Conscious and Active Participation in the life of the Church. First Communion is not a last Communion, but it can be. Part of our parental obligation is to help our children grow in faith. Being part of the Sunday Eucharistic Community is a great help to this.

Step 3: : Confirmation

August - September 2020

All dates to be confirmed at the Introductory Session on July 29

Children from Grade 6 up are invited to present themselves for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The stages of the Sacrament Preparation are:

Wednesday July 29: Introductory Session for Parents of Children receiving Confirmation (Term 3-2020) @ 7.00-8.00pm in Shrubland Hall.

Sunday Aug. 9: Family Formation 1: 8.45-10.15 am in Shrubland Hall.

Sunday Aug. 16: Family Formation 2: 8.45-10.15am in Shrubland Hall.
10.30 am mass— Presentation of Candidates

Sunday Aug. 23: Family Formation 3: 8.45-10.15 am in Shrubland Hall.

Friday Aug.28: Reflection Day 8.45am-2.45pm at Shrubland Hall. This in-