

St Brigid's Marrickville
Children's Sacraments
2017-2018



Called to be Disciples of Jesus
Stewards of all the Gifts
God places before us.

One Family, Alive in Christ

1 August 2017

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.

Step 1: 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 Registration

Baptisms are celebrated at 12 noon on 3rd and 4th Sunday
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 1 for Year 3 up)

October–November 2017 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:

1. **Wednesday Sep 20: Introductory Session for Parents Only** of Children receiving **Reconciliation** (Term 4, 2017) & **First Communion** (Term 1, 2018). 7-8pm in Shrubland Hall.
1. **Wednesday Oct 11: Family Formation Night 1** Session 7-8pm at Shrubland Hall for Parents & Candidates.
2. **Wednesday Oct 18: Family Formation Night 2** Session 7-8pm at Shrubland Hall for Parents and Candidates.
3. **Weekend Oct 21/22: Rite of Presentation Reconciliation Candidates** at 9am School Mass or any other Mass: Sat 5pm, Sun 7.30am, 9am, 10.30am, 6pm.
4. **Wednesday Oct 25: Family Formation Night 3** Session 7-8pm at Shrubland Hall for Parents and Candidates.
5. **Friday Nov 3: 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.
6. **Thursday Nov 9: Celebration of Reconciliation.** 7-8pm in the Church for all Families. An opportunity for all family members to participate.

February–March 2018: First Communion

Continuing on from Reconciliation last term, 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:

1. **Wednesday Feb 7 Family Formation Night 1:** 7-8pm: In Shrubland Hall. Selection of Preferred Communion times.
2. **Wednesday Feb 14: Family Formation Night 2:** 7-8pm: In Shrubland Hall
3. **Wednesday Feb 21: Family Formation Night 3:** 7-9pm: In Shrubland Hall.
4. **Weekend Feb 17/18: Rite of Presentation of Communion Candidates** at 9am School Mass or any other Mass: Sat 5pm, Sun 7.30am, 9am, 10.30am, 6pm.
5. **Wednesday Feb 28: Family Formation Night 4:** 7-8pm in Shrubland Hall.
6. **Friday March 9: 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.
7. **Weekends for First Communion**
Saturday March 10th @ 5pm & Sunday 11th @ 10.30am
Saturday March 17th @ 5pm & Sunday 18th @ 10.30am
8. **We encourage full participation** in one or more of the Easter Ceremonies, sharing in Communion with the rest of the Parish.

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 May–June 2018

All dates to be confirmed at the Introductory Session on March 28.

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

The stages of the Sacrament Preparation are:

1. **Wed April 4: Introductory Session** for Parents of Children receiving Confirmation (Term 2, 2018) @ 7.00-8.00pm in Shrubland Hall.
2. **Wed May 9: Family Formation Night 1:** 7-8pm in Shrubland Hall.
3. **Wed May 16: Family Formation Night 2:** 7-8pm in Shrubland Hall.
4. **Wed May 23: Family Formation Night 3:** 7-pm in Shrubland Hall.

5. **Wed May 30: Family Formation Night 4:** 7–8pm in Shrubland Hall.
6. **Weekend May 26-/27: Rite of Presentation of Confirmation Candidates**
Saturday @ 5pm, or, Sunday @ 9am, 10.30am, 6pm
7. **Fri June 8 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. We hope the Bishop will meet the children on this day.
8. **Sun June 17 OR 24 : (TBA) Confirmation by Bishop** at Mass at 2.00 pm

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the following occasions, so that all activities run as smoothly as possible:

- On the Family Formation Nights, we need help with hospitality and registration.
- On the Reflection Days we need help supervising morning tea break on front lawns, and preparing and supervising lunch, also on front lawns.
- On Church Sundays we need help with organizing the Children.

Please speak with one of the Team Members and let us know if and how you can assist.

Our Sacrament Team

Mary Ters
Trish Ferguson
Amanda Stephens
Elenita Flores CP
Fr Tim O'Toole CP

St Brigid's Marrickville

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