



St Gertrude's Parish Smithfield

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CONFIRMATION 2018: SUNDAY 17th JUNE at 2 PM & 4 PM ST BENEDICT'S SHRINE, SMITHFIELD

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for enrolling your child in the Confirmation Programme. It begins with an evening information meeting for parents, 5 Group Sessions for parents and children (week 5a/5b includes Reconciliation*), Sunday Mass attendance, a special parent only workshop evening, a Retreat Day, and finally a rehearsal for the ceremony.

It is expected that you will attend **ALL** parts of the programme with your child, who will then be eligible to receive Confirmation this year. Relevant information is listed below and we ask you to reflect on this prior to the meeting on May 2nd. If you are unable to commit to this fully, your child will need to re-enroll next year.

Confirmation Preparation begins with

- **PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT on Wednesday 2nd May in the Montefano Hall at 7.30 p.m.**
At this meeting, you will be given information about the programme structure and expectations.
- **SMALL GROUP SESSIONS in which parents AND children prepare together.** These commence in our Parish Office on **Saturday 5th May**, and continue for 5 weeks. Please check your email to confirm the day you have been assigned. **Parish Office address: 6 Justin St, Smithfield 2164.**
- **RECONCILIATION in week 5a/5b of your scheduled group session*.** In order to fully prepare themselves for the Sacrament of Confirmation, the candidates will go to Confession during Week 5a or 5b of their small group sessions. Date will be advised at the Parent Night or Week 1 lesson.
- **SUNDAY MASS** - Families are encouraged to attend weekly Sunday Mass. On the weekend of **5/6 May**, candidates are to hand out their Prayer Partner cards (pink/blue paper) to two members of the Parish congregation, who will pray for the candidate during the preparation program.
- **PARENT ONLY WORKSHOP on TUESDAY 22nd May in the Montefano Hall at 7:30 p.m.**
Led by Fr Jarek, the aim of the night is to foster your own formation as the Primary Educator of your child's faith, thereby giving you greater confidence to discuss the Sacrament of Confirmation with your child.
- **RETREAT DAY held at St Gertrude's School Hall on Tuesday 12th June from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
This day will start with Mass, followed by other activities to help the candidates reflect and prepare for their Confirmation. (Please see special note and Permission Form included with this letter).
- **CEREMONY REHEARSAL** to be held in St Benedict's Shrine at 7 p.m. **Rehearsal and Ceremony time allocation** will be advised at the Parent Night and no changes to ceremony time will be possible after allocation.

Should you have any questions regarding the Sacramental Programme please visit the Sacrament Office or phone 9725 4317 (Tuesday or Friday) between 10 am and 4 pm. Alternatively, I can be reached via email: sacraments@stgertrude.org.au or SMS – 0403 974 960.

I look forward to meeting with you on Wednesday 2nd May, and pray that very special blessings will be yours as you accompany your children in their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

*Sunday classes will be assigned a Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday or Saturday evening to attend Reconciliation as there will be no Confession available on Sundays due to Mass times.

Helena Mertin (Sacramental Coordinator)