



St Gertrude's Parish Smithfield

6 Justin St, Smithfield NSW 2164
Tel 9725 4317 Fax 9609 6585
Email sacraments@stgertrude.org.au

Dear Parents

FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (ECHARIST) 2021

Please read through the following information carefully - the structure of the Sacramental Program has changed.

Children in Year 3 and above, who have been **Baptised** in the **Catholic Church**, are eligible to enrol in the **combined First Reconciliation / First Communion Programme**. If your child has already made their Reconciliation, please indicate on the enrolment form. If you are unsure, please contact the Sacramental Office. Enrolments may be returned in the following ways:

- Email: sacraments@stgertrude.org.au Please scan your child's enrolment form and Baptism Certificate.
- In person, by placing the enrolment form and a photocopy of your child's Baptism Certificate, in an envelope and placing it in the St Gertrude's Parish DOOR letterbox – 6 Justin Street Smithfield 2164. Please **DO NOT** place the **ORIGINAL** Baptismal Certificate from your child's Baptism ceremony in the letterbox.

Please note: If your child WAS NOT Baptised at St. Gertrude's Parish, you will need to obtain an **UPDATED BAPTISM CERTIFICATE, which can be obtained from the Parish where your child was Baptised. If unsure, please contact the Sacramental Office.**

The preparation for First Communion for enrolled children consists of:

- Meeting for Parents** – Tuesday 23rd February 2021, in the Montefano Hall at **7 pm**. (To be confirmed).
- Weekly Sunday Mass attendance** – As a people of faith, who are asking to have their children enrolled in the First Holy Communion Program, we would expect that you and your child/ren attend weekly Mass.
- 8 Group Sessions for parents and children, one per week.** Dates To be confirmed.
 - First Reconciliation Classes – February/March 2021
 - First Holy Communion Classes – April/May 2021
- Parent Workshop** – TBA
- 2nd Rite of Reconciliation** – TBA
- Rehearsal for ceremony** – TBA at the Parent Meeting

It is expected that **parents and candidates** attend **ALL** parts of the programme, so your careful consideration is needed prior to enrolment. Only candidates who have met **all requirements** will be eligible to receive First Communion. If you do not meet the requirements you may be asked to re-enroll the following year.

Keeping in the line with Covid-19 government requirements, only **ONE** parent is permitted to attend classes with their child/ren, and no siblings are able to attend.

First Communion will be celebrated at the end of May / beginning of June. The Communion Mass will be **ALLOCATED** and **NO** change will be possible. Dates to be confirmed at the Parent Workshop.

Please note, due to Covid-19 government restrictions, ceremony dates may change. In addition, there may be limits placed on the number of guests a candidate may invite. Families will be advised at the Parent meeting. We thank you for your understanding.

The First Holy Communion classes will be held in the Montefano Hall. A Catechist will facilitate the sessions. Parents remain responsible for the faith formation of their child/ren. On your enrolment form, **please number THREE (3) time slots in order of preference**. Session times will be advised in early February 2021, by email.

If there are family situations, learning needs or individual circumstances we need to be made aware of, please advise on the enrolment form so we can work with you and support you to the best of our ability.

*Please refer to Privacy Compliance advice included with these enrolment forms.

Should you have any questions, please call 9725 4317 or email: sacraments@stgertrude.org.au

May the Lord bless you and give you peace.

Helena Mertin
SACRAMENTAL COORDINATOR

(Please keep this information page)

ST GERTRUDE'S PARISH – APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

IMPORTANT: ENROLMENT FORMS DUE BACK BY 19th FEBRUARY 2021

Enrolment forms can be returned by:

- Email sacraments@stgertrude.org.au – Please scan your child's enrolment form and Baptism Certificate.
- In person, by placing the enrolment form and a photocopy of your child's Baptism Certificate, in an envelope, and placing it in the St Gertrude's Parish DOOR letterbox – 6 Justin Street Smithfield 2164 – Please DO NOT place the ORIGINAL Baptismal Certificate, from your child's Baptism ceremony, in the letterbox.

Please note: If your child WAS NOT Baptised at St. Gertrude's Parish, you will need to obtain an UPDATED BAPTISM CERTIFICATE, which can be obtained from the Parish where your child was Baptised.

Please PRINT details for your child. One form per child please.

CHILD'S SURNAME: FIRST NAME:
(As appears on child's birth certificate)

DATE OF BIRTH: GENDER: M / F

ADDRESS: Postcode:

PHONE: Parent 1: Parent 2:
(mobile preferred) Parent 1 name: Parent 2 name:

Please PRINT email address below – all correspondence will be emailed to you.

EMAIL ADDRESS:

SCHOOL: GRADE:

FATHER'S NAME: RELIGION:

MOTHER'S NAME: RELIGION:

MOTHER'S FULL MAIDEN NAME:

BAPTISM: Date: Parish:

PARISH WHERE YOU ATTEND MASS: **TIME:**

HOW OFTEN DO YOU ATTEND MASS? (Please tick)

☐ WEEKLY ☐ FORTNIGHTLY ☐ MONTHLY ☐ OTHER:

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SESSION TIMES – Please number 3 time slots in order of preference.

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SUNDAY
6 pm – 7:30 pm ()	4:15 pm – 5:45 pm ()	9 – 10:30 am ()	4:15 pm – 5:45 pm ()
		11:45 am – 1:15 pm () Straight after 10:30 am Mass	

Please note any family situations, learning needs or additional information below (if applicable):

.....

I understand I am required to attend all parts of the Sacramental program.

I understand that there are 8 weeks of classes in total, and that I am required to attend with my child.

I understand that ceremonies are allocated and cannot be changed. I understand that there may be restrictions placed on the number of guests that can attend due to government social distancing laws.

I consent for my child to be photographed during the Communion ceremony. Photographs are taken for Parish record keeping and may be shared on the Parish Website.

() Please tick if you DO NOT wish for your child to be photographed or their image shared on the Parish Website.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature:

Please return this page.

PRIVACY COMPLIANCE ADVICE

1. The parish collects personal information, including sensitive information about members of the faithful. The primary purpose of collecting this information is to enable it to administer the sacraments and pastoral care to the faithful, and to the children of the faithful. Information may be required to allow the parish to meet some of its legal obligations, provide care for the child while under supervision and discharge its duty of care. The information you provide on enrolment forms may be used to request your services as a volunteer and to assist with a donation to cover programme costs.
2. The Parish from time to time discloses personal and sensitive information to others for administrative purposes. This includes other parishes, the diocese, medical practitioners and people providing services to the schools and parish including volunteers.
3. If we do not obtain the information requested, we may not be able to administer the Sacraments.
4. Personal information collected from children is disclosed to their parents or guardians. Parents or guardians may seek access to personal information collected about them and their son/daughter by contacting the parish 9604 1199 (Office hours are 10 am – 2.00pm Monday to Friday. Closed Wed).
5. Adults may also seek access to information collected about them in the same manner.
6. As the parish is largely reliant upon locally raised funds and local efforts for its continuation, information received from those who reside in the parish or avail themselves of its services may be used to seek donations and other forms of support from them. On occasions it uses the resources of the diocese to support this process and in the course of this, information is made available to those people. We will not disclose your personal information to other third parties for other fundraising purposes without your consent.

Enrolment for First Reconciliation & First Communion

Child/Parent Commitment

CELEBRANT: *Children, at your Baptism God called you to be followers of Jesus. Are you ready to learn more about Jesus and prepare for these Sacraments?*

CHILDREN: YES, WE ARE!

CELEBRANT: *Parents, having asked that your child be part of the sacramental program at St Gertrude's Parish, do you commit to the program and will you support your child in their faith journey?*

PARENTS: YES, WE WILL! WE ASK THE STRENGTH OF OUR GOD TO HELP US RESPOND TO THIS CALL.

CELEBRANT: *Parishioners will you support these families through your Prayers?*

ALL: YES WE WILL!

CELEBRANT: *May God be with you. May you experience His healing touch and peace. May you know His embrace and presence.*

ALL: AMEN.

