



ST BRIGID'S CATHOLIC PARISH

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Dear Parents / Guardians

Sacramental Program 2026

The Sacramental Program is a set of lessons to support parents in their faith formation of their baptised children.

“To a large extent it is the responsibility of Christian parents to show concern for the initiation of their children to the sacramental life both by forming and gradually increasing a spirit of faith in the children and, sometimes with the help of their instructors who are responsible for catechetical formation, by preparing them for the fruitful reception of the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist.”

Introduction to the Order of Confirmation, no. 3.

The purpose of the program is to fulfill the abovementioned call of the Church to complete the Christian initiation through the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist. The process includes also preparation and the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance as required in no. 12 of the Introduction of Order of Confirmation, which states that *“those faithful possessing the use of reason must be in the state of grace, be properly instructed, and capable of renewing the baptismal promises.”*

Beginning from 2026 the program will have 3 sets of lessons (Penance in March, Confirmation in June and the Eucharist in November), which if all done in one year will bring too much strain on the children and your family life. For that reason, the program will be divided into two streams.

Stream 1: Penance and Confirmation

- For children who have been baptised, who are in Year 3 or have turned 8 years of age but **have not yet received the Sacrament of Penance and Confirmation – the reception of these two sacraments will conclude the program for these children for 2026. They will be invited to receive First Holy Communion in November 2027.**

Stream 2: The Eucharist

- For children who are in Year 4 or have turned 9 years of age **and have already received the sacraments of Penance and Confirmation but have not yet received their First Holy Communion (the Sacrament of the Eucharist).**
- For children who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation but have not been prepared for the Sacrament of Penance there is an invitation to participate in the program for Confession and then to wait later in the year for the program for the First Holy Communion

To begin the program parents/guardians are required to attend a **preliminary meeting** scheduled for **Saturday 7th February at 10.30am or after the Sunday Mass on 8th February around 9.45am, both meetings will take place at the Parish Community Centre (the attendance of one will suffice).** Unfortunately, if you miss either of these meetings, there will be **no catch-up meeting**, and you will have to wait to join the new group beginning the Sacramental preparations for 2027.

The Preparation program entails participation in the Sunday Mass as well as preparation classes following the morning Mass on Sundays. Hence, please make sure that your family is ready to join our Parish Community for the Mass at 8.30am. However, the program is designed to empower parents to teach their children the beauty of our faith at home by going through the lessons in the workbook.

These are the next year's dates of the preparation classes:

- for **Reconciliation and Penance (Confession)** – 22nd February; 1st, 8th and 15th March with the celebration of **the sacrament of Reconciliation and Penance** on **Thursday 19th March 2026 at 6.00pm**;
- for **Confirmation** - 24th and 31st May; 7th, 14th and 21st June with the celebration of **the sacrament of Confirmation** on **Tuesday 23rd June 2026 at 6.00pm**;
- for **the Eucharist (First Holy Communion)** – 11th, 18th and 25th October; 1st and 8th November with the celebration of **the sacrament of the Eucharist** (First Holy Communion) with three options: during Saturday Vigil Mass on **14th November at 6pm** or Sunday **15th November at 8.30am** or additional Mass **15th November at 12.30pm** (the dates of the ceremonies will be decided together with the parents).

In order to accurately document the reception of the sacrament we will need a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate.

To cover the cost of all materials and office work the fee is \$70 for one child, \$120 for two children and \$180 for three.

Enrolment Form and the Payment Slip are available from the Parish office or on our website: www.stbrigidsparishnerang.org.au.

The following documents are to be delivered to the Parish Office on or before the first Parent/Guardian meeting:

- Completed Enrolment Form,
- Child's Baptismal Certificate,
- Sponsor's Baptismal and Confirmation Certificates.

We look forward to meeting you and sharing with your family this special time in your child's sacramental journey.

***Rev. Fr Damian Mosakowski, OSPPE STL
for St Brigid's Parish Sacramental Team***