

ST BRIGID'S CATHOLIC PARISH
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Dear Parents / Guardians

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2027

The Sacramental Program is a set of lessons to support you in your duty regarding faith formation of your baptised children. When you have requested the baptism of your child, the minister of baptism proclaimed these words:

"*You have asked to have your child baptised. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour*."

The Church confirms this responsibility when other sacraments are approached. Introduction to the Order of Confirmation in no. 3 brings to our attention that:

"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."

The purpose of the Sacramental Program in St. Brigid's Catholic Parish in Nerang is to fulfill the abovementioned call of the Church to complete the Christian initiation of your children by preparing them to receive 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*."

STREAM FOR RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE (CONFESSION) AND CONFIRMATION

This Stream is designed for children who have been baptised and are in Year 3 or have turned 8 years of age but **have not yet received the Sacraments of Penance and Confirmation – the reception of these two sacraments will**

conclude the program for these children for 2027. They will be invited to join the First Holy Communion preparation program in November 2028.

To begin the program parents/guardians are required to attend a **preliminary meeting** scheduled for **Sunday, 7th February after the Sunday Morning Mass around 9.45am in the Parish Community Centre.**

Our Preparation Program begins with Sunday Mass at 8.30am, followed by the preparation classes. We ask families to make attending Mass an important part of the program and to join our Parish Community in celebrating together. Our program also encourages and supports parents as the first teachers of faith for their children. Using the lessons in the workbook, parents can help their children discover and understand the beauty of our Catholic faith at home.

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

- for **Reconciliation and Penance (First Confession)** –

14th February, 21st February, 28th February, 28th February and 7th March

  - ✓ the celebration of **the sacrament of Reconciliation and Penance** will take place on **Thursday 11th March 2027 at 6.00pm**;

- for **Confirmation** –

2nd May, 9th May, 16th May, 23rd May and 30th May.

  - ✓ Depending on the number of the participants and after the consultation with the parents the proposed dates for the celebration of **the sacrament of Confirmation** are: **Thursday, 3rd June 2027 at 6.00pm or Sunday, 6th June at 8.30am**

We warmly invite you to enrol your child in our Sacramental Program by visiting www.stbrigidsparishnerang.org.au and selecting the "**Sacraments**" tab. Please choose either **Reconciliation** or **Confirmation** and follow the two-step process of **Registration** and **Enquiry**.

Once we receive your enquiry, we will send you **the enrolment form** and all the information you need to begin preparing your child for the sacrament.
As the Archdiocese requires a specific enrolment process, each step must be completed in sequence. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work together to support your child's faith journey.

To accurately document the reception of the sacraments the following documents will need to be uploaded to the online enrolment form before the first Parent/Guardian meeting:

- Child's Birth Certificate,
- Child's Baptismal Certificate,

As part of preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, each candidate, together with their family, will be invited to choose a Confirmation Sponsor. This is an

important decision because the Sponsor is not only a special companion during the Confirmation ceremony but also a guide and support in the candidate's ongoing journey of faith.

When choosing a Sponsor, we encourage families to select someone who is a practising Catholic and who can be a positive influence in the candidate's life. A good sponsor is someone who can:

- Encourage the candidate to grow in prayer and participate actively in the sacramental life of the Church.
- Provide a genuine example of Catholic faith and Christian living.
- Be available to offer friendship, encouragement, and support beyond the day of Confirmation.
- Help the newly confirmed person to live out the commitments of Baptism and Confirmation in everyday life.

A sponsor has the privilege of walking alongside the candidate as a witness to faith, helping them discover the joy of following Christ and living as an active member of the Church. We encourage families to prayerfully consider who would be the best person to take on this important role.

The Church provides some requirements for those who serve as sponsors. A Confirmation sponsor should be a practising Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion, is ordinarily at least 16 years of age, and is living a life consistent with the Catholic faith.

Whenever possible, the candidate's baptismal godparent is especially encouraged to serve as the Confirmation sponsor as this highlights the close connection between Baptism and Confirmation and the ongoing journey of faith.

Sponsor's Baptismal and Confirmation Certificates will need to be emailed to the Parish Office email: nerang@bne.catholic.net.au

To ensure that every child receives the resources and support needed throughout the Confession and Confirmation programs, we ask families to contribute **$120 per child** towards materials and administrative costs. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

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