21 August 2020

Dear Parents, Caregivers of our candidates for the Sacraments of Initiation,

Thank you for your patience as the parish and schools work towards overcoming the obstacles put in place for our protection from COVID-19.

Planning is in progress to celebrate the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist in Term 4.

Thanks to a decision by new Archbishop Patrick O’Regan, this year both sacraments can be received from the parish priest. So, we are going to have both sacraments received at the same Mass.

That is, after the Liturgy of the Word, the sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred. And after the Eucharistic Prayer, at the Communion Rite, the sacrament of the Eucharist will be received for the first time by your children.

The sacraments will be celebrated in Masses especially for these sacraments, not general parish Masses.

You will have the choice of the following dates:

* Friday 16th October 6pm at Rosary Church **OR**
* Saturday 17th October 10am at Rosary Church

Please click on the following link <https://www.trybooking.com/BLCDR> to make your booking (bookings open on Monday, 24 August at 8am). Please note, the total number of candidates will be limited to 16 per Mass. When booking, in the ‘Tickets’ section, you will be requested to select the number of attendees, this is the candidate eg. 1. If there are 2 children in the family being Confirmed and receiving the First Eucharist, it will be 2. Please be mindful that with the current COVID restrictions, the total number of attendees per candidate cannot exceed 10 (including the candidate) and they must all adhere to the relevant social distancing requirements. Further information regarding this will be provided closer to the dates.

As you may recall from our Sacrament Information session held in term 1, the focus is on Family Centred, Parish Based, School supported sacrament preparation programs. This entails the involvement and recognition that families are the first and ongoing nurturers of faith in their children.

Therefore, compulsory family workshops will be held at Rosary School on the following dates:

Workshop 1: Monday 7th September 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Workshop 2: Monday 21st September 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Families and candidates will be required to attend ***both*** of these.

If your circumstances have changed since you registered with the Parish earlier in the year and you no longer wish for your child to participate, please advise the Parish.

I know that you will be excited to see your children able to complete their initiation into the life of Jesus Christ after so much waiting and confusion.

It is a great joy for me to see your children take part in the liturgies at school. I look forward to seeing them blossom in the life of the Church as the Holy Spirit leads them.

God bless you and keep you safe.

Paul Rankin op

Parish Priest.