



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Newcastle Catholic Community

Welcome to the sacramental program for 2025. Our journey in the Catholic faith begins with the Sacrament of Baptism and continues with the following:

1. Confirmation
2. First Communion
3. Reconciliation

Preparation for the Sacramental Program is either online or in family groups. The actual sacraments themselves and the preparations for the sacraments are in person (of course!) We ask that you complete the materials for the sacraments as a family, guided by short online activities, either as part of a group or as an individual family. A key component of the program is the act of mercy project (an act of some kind of service to the community). Each family designs, plans, and carries out this act of service.

We recommend the program for any child in year 2 and above. Parents make the decision if they feel it's right time for their children.

If you require any assistance throughout the program, please contact the parish office by

1. Email: anne.millard@mn.catholic.org.au or newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au
2. Phone: 49791252

ONLINE CONTENT—All the materials for the sacramental program are contained in an online platform called MOODLE. Log in to moodle to access the online materials and to select dates for the Sacraments. <http://newcparish.moodlehub.com>

Username: Parents' email address (all lower case)

Password: P@ss2025

Questions after hours? SMS or call Anne 0435828390

SAFEGUARDING

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility if you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding on 4979 1390, childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au, or visit their website for

further information

1) COMMITMENT PLEDGE

We begin officially with each child committing to Sacramental Program. Parents are invited to formally present their children and declare their commitment to the program. It's really important to us that we meet all the children. Therefore, we ask you to do one of the following things:

- a. attend Mass @ The Cathedral, St Joseph's, St Peter's or Christ the King, where you will participate in the signing of the senses
- b. post a short video (from your phone or similar) pledging your commitment to the program
- c. arrange a private time to commit to the program

We ask that you complete this task by April 28, please.

2) CONFIRMATION

There are three requirements of your family as you prepare your child for this sacrament.

1. Three family group (or online) activities for your family designed to be completed one afternoon/evening per week for three weeks
2. Corporal and Spiritual Work of Mercy (to be completed by 15 May)
3. Attend Confirmation Retreat: FRIDAY May 16, 9:15am to 2:30 @ Sacred Heart Cathedral and grounds (Yes, this means a day off school. We think it's important 😊) Please do not wear school uniform for this day.

CONFIRMATION CEREMONIES

We have the following dates for Confirmation:

Tuesday May 20 6:30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Friday May 23 6:30pm @ Christ the King, Mayfield West

Thursday May 29 6:30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The ceremony is NOT a Mass; the duration is typically less than an hour. You only need attend ONE ceremony. Sign up on Moodle for which night you prefer.

NAMING

To show the close link between Baptism and Confirmation, your child is encouraged to use his or her Baptismal Name during the Confirmation ceremony. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains it as follows:

In Baptism, the Christian receives his or her name in the Church This can be the name of a saint, or can express a Christian mystery or Christian virtue...God calls each one by name. Everyone's name is sacred...The name one receives is a name for eternity. (Par 2156 - 8)

The custom last century of adopting a saint's name at confirmation was done in order to adopt the saint as a special heavenly patron or to honour a saint to whom one had a special devotion. If your child does not have the name of a saint or a Christian mystery or virtue, he or she MAY choose to add such a name TO THEIR BAPTISMAL NAME. e.g. Skye Maria

SPONSORS

The Sacrament of Confirmation seals and continues what was begun in Baptism.

To express more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation and the continuing role of sponsor, it is highly desirable that a baptismal Godparent be the sponsor at Confirmation. The sponsor's role is an ongoing supportive one in the child's life and faith journey.

The Code of Canon Law does not allow parents to be sponsors.

The sponsor, representing the Faith Community, stands with the child for Confirmation, and during the ceremony shows this by placing the right hand on the shoulder of the candidate.

The sponsor does not need to be the same gender as the candidate.

Sponsors need to:

- be suitable for this role and have the intention of fulfilling it
- be not less than 16 years of age
- belong to the Catholic Church and have been initiated in the three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist

CORPORAL AND SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY PROJECT:

As part of their sacramental journey, we ask the candidates for confirmation to complete a project based on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Parents and children should decide on the project together. A one-page report is due at the retreat on 16 May. This report can be written, or using video, photo journal, etc. Excerpts from these reports may appear as part of the Confirmation liturgy. Photographs are appropriate to include.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus instructs us to care for one another out of love for Him. The Golden Rule, the second greatest commandment, and the example of Christ Himself make this point: we are meant to serve one another. Catholic tradition gives us a beautiful roadmap of how to do this in the **Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy**.

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY	SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY
Feed the hungry	Admonish the sinner
Give drink to the thirsty	Instruct the ignorant
Clothe the naked	Counsel the doubtful
Visit the imprisoned	Comfort the sorrowful
Shelter the homeless	Bear wrongs patiently

Visit the sick Bury the dead	Forgive all injuries Pray for the living and the dead
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To this list of seven corporal and seven spiritual works of mercy, Pope Francis recently added an 8th work: *Show mercy to our common home*.

The project need only be as complex as you and your family decides. There's no right or wrong project. We ask that you make a plan that's right for your family. The project should be family based. More information is available on moodle.

2) RECONCILIATION

The reconciliation journey in the City Pastoral Region includes three steps. We focus on reconciliation during Lent, which is the time for reconciliation for the whole community.

1. We remember our Baptism.
2. Two short modules about reconciliation on moodle or in family groups
 - a. The Best Me I Can Be (including Moses and the Ten Commandments)
 - b. Zaccheus
2. Attend a Reconciliation ceremony. When you are ready to receive the sacrament of reconciliation, we arrange a time for you to do that. We limit each ceremony to 5 students and their families. Let us know when the time is right for you!

Reconciliation Ceremonies:

Your child will not receive a certificate for this sacrament, as we are not permitted to keep records of receiving this sacrament. Indeed, this sacrament is completely voluntary

4) FIRST COMMUNION: (Term 3)

Once your child is confirmed, preparation for First Communion can begin. There are three short videos on moodle to watch or the books to use in family groups. Here are the suggested dates for First Communion:

First Communion dates will be in August. They are quite flexible.

DONATION: We ask for a donation of \$50 (of which \$30 is for the books) toward offsetting our costs.