

30th January 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to 2023! I look forward to meeting many of you as your children prepare to celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation, Holy Communion and Reconciliation. The Parish will support you and your child in their Sacramental journey. Please read the section relevant to their year level below, and the bottom paragraph of this letter.

Note: Parents whose children have celebrated at least one Sacrament already in our parish are already enrolled. We have already contacted you via email with the dates of your child's next Sacrament. If you haven't received an email, please contact the Parish Office on 3281 2133 or ipswich@bne.catholic.net.au.

Prep / Year 1 / Year 2 Parents – Children begin the Sacramental Program in Year 3. In the meantime, I invite your child to come along and have some fun at Friday Night Youth (6:30pm – 8:30pm Friday nights during school term in the St Mary's Primary School Hall) to meet other children and to share dinner and play a few games.

Year 3 Parents - Your child begins the Sacramental Program this year, celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation in May, Eucharist in Year 4, and Reconciliation in Year 5. If your child has already celebrated one of these Sacraments in another Parish, they are still eligible to enrol and celebrate the remaining sacraments.

Enrol to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation now - ipswichcatholic.com/children.

All year 3 parents are asked to attend a 45-minute session for Parents (children optional) on **Wednesday 15th February from 6:30pm in St. Mary's Church, Woodend**. Register for this session here – bit.ly/3WMFLWU

Year 4/5/6 Parents - If your child has already begun their sacramental journey in our Parish, they will continue in the program they are currently enrolled in, celebrating the Sacraments that remain; Confirmation in May (Year 3 and up), Eucharist in June (Year 4 and up), and Reconciliation in August (Year 5 and up). These families do not need to re-enrol or attend the information session. We have already sent you an email.

If your child **has not previously been enrolled in our program**, they are eligible to enrol. Enrol to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation now - ipswichcatholic.com/children.

All parents of children yet to celebrate a Sacrament in our Parish are asked to attend a 45-minute Information Session for Parents (children optional) on **Wednesday 15th February from 6:30pm in St. Mary's Church, Woodend**. Register for this session here – bit.ly/3WMFLWU

Unbaptised Children (all year levels) - If your child is not yet Baptised, you are invited to consider this important step in their faith life, preparing them for the Sacramental Program. There are 2 Baptism Preparation sessions scheduled for school aged children this year: Wednesday 1st March or Wednesday 19th July, both starting at 6:30pm. These sessions are for children approaching Baptism. Enrol now - bit.ly/primarybaptism.

On behalf of our Parish Community, I look forward to celebrating the Sacraments with your family and see this as a very important and enjoyable time to meet parents and children. All primary school students (regardless of their region) are invited to **Friday Night Youth** and **Children's Liturgy of the Word** at our 9am St. Mary's Mass each Sunday. Please contact the Parish Office for more details. I am also available for a discussion with families if there are personal circumstances I can assist with. We are here to help!

Yours in Francis and Clare,



Fr. Stephen Bliss OFM
Parish Priest
Ipswich Catholic Community