

The Catholic school provides ongoing teaching about the sacraments throughout the school years as well as prayer and liturgical experiences.

This happens at our parish schools in St William's Parish (St William's Grovely & St Andrew's Ferny Grove) and Our Lady of Dolours at Mitchelton.

A parish-based process.

The sacramental process is co-ordinated from the parish office by a person called a Sacramental Coordinator. A team of parents assists this co-ordinator through parent meetings and arranging the celebrations which are held in the parish. Resources and assistance are provided for parents of children from all parish schools and all the others schools in the geographical area.

When are the Sacraments celebrated?

First Reconciliation from around 7-8years (usually Year 2). This happens in the second half of the year.

Confirmation and First Communion from around 8-9 years (about Year 3) celebrated shortly after Easter, the following year.

Older children of course are also eligible at these celebration times.

Commencement of the sacramental preparation process will be advertised in school and parish newsletters.

Please consider carefully the seriousness and commitment involved in the preparation of your child to live as a fully initiated member of the church.

Because this time is foundational to the faith development of your child and a valuable time of self development and understanding for yourself, it is essential that the family participate in the meetings and activities organized by the parish. Enrolment of your child is done with this understanding and no less is expected.

Many parents who have taken this step seriously – to prepare their children for the Sacraments – have been positively surprised at the changes in their families. Through the experience they have grown closer as a family and come to understand how God is at work in their family.

For further information

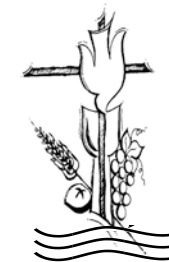
**please contact the
Sacramental Coordinator**

at the Parish Office

3355 1665

sc.grovely@bne.catholic.net.au

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF GROVELY-SAMFORD & MITCHELTON



Western Hills Communities

from

Gaythorne to Mt. Glorious

Sacramental Preparation for families

**Are you wondering about the
Sacraments for your child?**

Confirmation

First Communion

Reconciliation

WHAT ARE YOUR MEMORIES...

What memories do you have of the day you were confirmed? Or, of your First Communion Day? Or of the first time you celebrated the Sacrament of Penance?

Perhaps you were not raised a Catholic and have heard many stories from others. Perhaps you are now married to a Catholic and wonder about the sacraments and what this will mean for your child now, this year, the rest of his or her life.

Perhaps you have chosen to send your child to a Catholic school. However, you are no doubt aware that Religious Education, prayer and liturgical activities are an important component of life.

The journey began when you brought your child to the Church for Baptism, you



promised to do all that you could to bring your little one up in the practice of the faith.

Baptism is the first step in the process of initiation into the church and this is completed through

Confirmation and First Communion.

The Sacraments have taken on different names. Confession is now called Reconciliation or Penance. We often hear Communion referred to as the Eucharist.

Your child and the Sacraments.

Many changes have taken place in the Church. The names of the sacraments may be unfamiliar, and the place and method of preparation different but the sacraments themselves still remain signs and instruments of God's presence.

Your child is invited to grow in the relationship with God that began in Baptism. At this time we focus on this relationship being nourished through regular participation at Mass, in the



reception of Holy Communion and the celebration of Reconciliation and Confirmation.

Faith is primarily nurtured in the family.



to decide their child's readiness and participate in the process of preparation.

Celebrating the Sacraments?

We speak of celebrating the sacraments rather than doing First Confession or making First Communion. This emphasises the fact that we consciously participate in the action of God. It is not just something done to us. God acts and we respond.

Now your child has entered his/her school years, their growth in faith has the opportunity to be nurtured in three places: the family, the parish community and if chosen, the Catholic school. These three communities are like the legs of a three-legged stool. Each has its own strength and importance, and each is balanced and supported by the other two.

Likewise, the family, school and parish each have different roles in sacramental preparation.

Parents participate actively in their child's sacramental preparation.

Parents are intimately involved in their children's lives and it is in the home where they live love, forgiveness, faith and hope. These experiences form the basis for all sacramental preparation. The immediate preparation in the months before the celebration is an opportunity for faith to be shared in the family. In previous times the school took care of this preparation. The church now recognizes that parents in collaboration with the pastor are best qualified