Dear Parents/Guardians,

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2027

Thank you for your time and care giving your children the gift of the Sacraments. It is with a heart of gladness I welcome you to enrol your children in our Sacramental Program. Our sacramental program runs over two (2) years commencing with Confirmation in the first year, then First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation the following year. Older children may complete all three Sacraments during one calendar year. Participants of the Sacrament of Confirmation have already shared in the Sacrament of Baptism and will be in grade three (3) or above.

I am pleased to provide the following date claimers. I look forward to supporting and serving you and your families as you journey through the Sacraments.

What to expect

- **Parental involvement:** Parents play a significant role in nurturing their children's faith and are a key part of the program. You will be expected to complete workbooks at home, attend an information session, attend Masses and the workshop day for each Sacrament.
- **Workshop day:** Our program is blessed to have Archdiocesan Ministries help us engage the children to encounter God and grow in their faith. Each Sacrament has one workshop day the children and a parent must attend.
- **Mandatory attendance:** Attendance at key events such as Rite of Enrolment Masses, workshop days and dates listed below are necessary to gain an understanding of each Sacrament and strengthen your family's faith formation.
- **Mass passports:** Families are required to fill in a Mass Passport as a means of connecting with our Priests during their Sacramental preparation. Passports are given to your family in their Sacramental Pack. Passports are to be brought to Mass and signed by the Priest or Sacristan after Mass. A minimum four signatures are required for the child to receive their Sacrament.

Enrolments

Enrolments are online and you will need to complete enrolments prior to the commencement of the program. Here is the link https://gsmparishes.com.au/confirmation/

Your child's sponsor

Upon enrolment, you and your child will need to choose a sponsor for Confirmation. The sponsor must be a Confirmed Catholic 16 years of age or over. The sponsor helps you guide your child through their life, developing their faith and aiding them to deepen their relationship with the Lord. How people choose a sponsor varies. Here is a guideline for choosing a sponsor;

- Think about who is Catholic and practising Catholic in your life and your child's life.
- Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance on who to choose as your child's sponsor.
- Pray with your chosen sponsor about it.

Saint name
You and your child will need to choose a Saint name for your child at the time of enrolment. If you need more time to discern a Saint name, please let me know any time 2 weeks prior to your celebration. How people choose a Saint name will differ. Your Saint becomes your intercessor, and you will be spiritually bonded.
Here is a guideline for choosing a Saint name;

- Please research different Saints. https://www.catholic.org/saints/ may be helpful.
- Pray to the Holy Spirit and ask for guidance in finding a Saint who you would like to imitate in your life. Think about their attributes and the virtues they exhibited during their lifetime.
- Make a short list of Saints that speak to your hearts.
- Ask a Catholic family member or friend their opinion on your 'short list'. Pray with that person and choose your Saint name.

Please note if your child is already named after a Saint, there is no need to choose another Saint name. Please use their name for the online enrolment.

Information session
Please bring a listening ear and open heart. You will leave with a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Confirmation Pack includes a family handbook for parents to peruse, a workbook and other information important for your child's journey to Confirmation. The workbooks are to be completed at home with your child during the weeks between the information session and the workshop day.

Rite of Enrolment ceremony
When you attend the Rite of Enrolment ceremony with your child, you will commit to the journey to the Sacrament of Confirmation and your child will receive a special blessing during Mass.

Workshop day - what to bring to the Encounter Kids Workshop Day

- Completed Confirmation workbook
- A plate to share at morning tea
- A packed lunch for you and your child
- A heart willing to learn and have fun!

Our Father and Creed Masses
When you attend the Our Father and Creed Masses, your child will be given a prayer card at each Mass and the Priest will call the children to the front of the congregation during the Mass at the time of saying the prayer.

Date claimers
Information sessions: Tuesday 2 March 7pm, Wednesday 3 March at 12 noon, Thursday 4 March, 7pm all at St William's Catholic Church, Grovely. One parent of the enrolled child must attend one session. At this session you will receive a Sacramental Pack for your use in the program.
Rite of Enrolment ceremony weekend: Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 March. Families must attend one Mass. Confirmation Candidates commit to their Sacramental journey and our Parish community makes promises to support them.
Our Father Mass: Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 April. Families must attend one Mass. At this Mass children will receive an Our Father prayer and learn the importance of the Our Father.
Creed Mass: Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 April. Families can attend one Mass. At this Mass children will receive a Creed prayer card and learn the importance of the Apostles Creed.
Encounter Kids workshop day: Sunday, 9 May, at 9am Mass followed by morning tea and workshops until approx. 2pm, St William's Catholic Church, Grovely. Attendance is compulsory.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation
Group A: Saturday, May 15 at 5pm, St William's Catholic Church, Grovely.
Group B: Sunday, May 16 at 9am, St William's Catholic Church, Grovely.
Group C: Sunday, May 16 at 5pm, St William's Catholic Church, Grovely.
Group D: Sunday, May 16 at 8am, Sacred Heart, Samford.

May the Lord bless you and your family as you embark on the journey to Confirmation. If you have any queries, please contact me on (07) 33553690 or sc.grovely@bne.catholic.net.au

With a welcoming heart, yours in Christ,

Laura McGillion
Sacramental Coordinator

The Catholic Parishes of Grovely-Samford and Mitchelton
67 Dawson Parade
Keperra QLD 4054
P: 07 33553690
E: sc.grovely@bne.catholic.net.au
www.gsmparishes.com.au
www.facebook.com/gsmparishes