Dear Parents/Guardians,

SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2027

It is with a heart of gladness I will guide you in continuing your child's faith journey, on the road to First Holy Communion, also called First Eucharist. Thank you for giving this gift to your child. First Holy Communion is for children who are in year 4 or above and have celebrated their Confirmation. If you have celebrated Confirmation in our parish, your child is automatically enrolled for the following year's cohort for both First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation. There are no extra fees payable.

I am pleased to provide the following date claimers and information. I look forward to supporting and serving you and your families as you journey towards the most precious gift we are given, the Eucharist.

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 the Eucharist 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.

Information session

Please bring a listening ear and open heart. You will leave with a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. The First Holy Communion Pack includes a family handbook for parents to peruse, a workbook and other information important for your child's journey to First Holy Communion. 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 First Holy Communion and your child will receive a special blessing during Mass.

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

- Completed First Holy Communion 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.

Penance service

In keeping with the Sacramental Policy of the Archdiocese of Brisbane, a simple celebration of the second rite of Penance (also called Reconciliation) is included in preparation for First Holy Communion. Attendance is compulsory to receive First Holy Communion.

Date claimers

Information sessions: Tuesday 25 May 7pm, Wednesday 26 May 12 noon and Thursday 27 May 7pm, all at St William's Catholic Church, Grovely. Parents 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 12 June & Sunday 13 June. Families must attend one Mass. First Holy Communion Candidates commit to their journey to the Eucharist and our Parish community makes promises to support them.
Our Father Mass: Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 June. Families must attend one Mass. At this Mass children will receive an Our Father prayer and develop their understanding of the Our Father. At this Mass you will bring your child's written Prayer Partner letter to give to a parishioner.
Encounter Kids workshop day: Sunday, 18 July, at 9am Mass followed by morning tea and workshops until approx. 2pm, St William's Catholic Church, Grovely. Attendance is compulsory.
Penance service: Thursday 22 July, 6pm, St William's Catholic Church, Grovely. One parent and the child preparing for First Holy Communion must attend 2nd Rite Penance as a group. Attendance is compulsory to receive First Holy Communion.
Creed Mass: Saturday 24 & 25 July. Families must attend one Mass. At this Mass children will receive a Creed prayer card and develop their understanding of the Apostles Creed.
Celebration of the Sacrament of First Holy Communion
Group A: Saturday, August 7 at 5pm, St William's Catholic Church, Grovely.
Group B: Sunday, August 8 at 9am, St William's Catholic Church, Grovely.
Group C: Sunday, August 8 at 5pm, St William's Catholic Church, Grovely.
Group D: Sunday, August 8 at 8am, Sacred Heart, Samford.

May the Lord bless you and your family as you embark on the journey to First Holy Communion. 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

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