Dear Parents/Guardians,

SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION 2027

Congratulations on prioritising your child's and family's faith! The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the Lord's love, and like Eucharist, it is a Sacrament we depend on for our entire lives as Catholics sojourneying together. The Sacrament of First Reconciliation is for children who have celebrated their Confirmation and First Holy Communion. Children who have celebrated their Frist Holy Communion with our parish are automatically enrolled into First Reconciliation.

Your family will have some understanding of Reconciliation, often called Penance, due to the second rite of Reconciliation service and teachings included in our First Holy Communion preparation.

I am pleased to provide the following date claimers and information. You will see it is a short and meaningful program. I look forward to journeying with you and your families towards a fuller understanding of the boundless, unconditional love of our Lord.

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 a journal and workbook 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 Reconciliation.
- **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.

Information session

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

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

- Completed Reconciliation journal
- A plate to share at morning tea
- A heart willing to learn and have fun!

Date claimers

Information sessions: Tuesday 17 August 7pm, Wednesday 18 August 12 noon, Thursday 19 August, 7pm all at St William's Catholic Church, Grovely. Parents must attend one session.
Rite of Enrolment ceremony weekend: Saturday 28 August & Sunday 29 August. Families must attend one Mass. First Reconciliation Candidates commit to their learnings of Reconciliation and our Parish community makes promises to support them.
Encounter Kids workshop day: Sunday, 10 October, at 9am Mass followed by morning tea and workshops until approx. 12 noon, St William's Catholic Church, Grovely.
Celebration of the Sacrament of First Reconciliation
Together: Sunday 17 October 11am, St William's Catholic Church, Grovely.

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

With a humbled heart, yours in Christ,

Laura McGillion
Sacramental Coordinator

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