



# SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

## INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES



Dear Families,

After many false starts, we are pleased to inform families that will celebrate Confirmation this year. It is scheduled for Tuesday November, 30 at 5pm at Holy Rosary Church.

### **GUEST DETAILS**

Families will notice that for all sacraments, guest numbers have been significantly reduced, and in the case of First Reconciliation, they have and will continue to take place during school time in the presence of their peers and teachers only. This has been a difficult decision to make as we know this is a special occasion that families enjoy sharing with one another. However, we have taken into account many considerations that have led to this decision. The health of our children and families is our first priority. Given that not all our children are vaccinated, we owe it to them to keep them safe, and therefore keep numbers gathering in the Church to a minimum. Our largest cohort is celebrating First Eucharist, so we have scheduled two celebration times. We also need to squeeze in six liturgies in our last 3 and half weeks of school, including Year 6 Graduation. We are working around school events already planned, Fr Thang's parish masses and St Brendan's Sacramental celebration dates. Although most of our community is vaccinated, it doesn't prevent people from contracting the virus or passing it on. For most people, it means that we don't get as sick, but will still be required to isolate. Keeping numbers to a minimum aims to avoid transmission of a COVID case so close to the end of the school year. It would be a shame if children didn't see out the end of the school year, or for families to be in isolation for Christmas, rather than celebrating with families and friends.

### **NUMBER OF GUESTS**

In line with COVID Safe Guidelines, your child will have their sponsor present only.

Sponsors must:

- be a Catholic who has received the Sacrament of Confirmation
- be at least 16 years old
- have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Sponsors may be a parent or a child may have a proxy sponsor if their sponsor cannot be there on the day.

### **CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES**

We have scheduled the Confirmation time for 5pm, knowing that it will conclude in time for the children and sponsors to celebrate with their family over dinner. If the new arrangement doesn't suit your family, you may choose for your child to celebrate Confirmation next year, in the hope that life has returned to normal and more guests will be permitted to attend. If you opt for your child to celebrate next year, please contact Sonya, or to notify of any other changes such as the sponsor.

### **REGISTER FOR CONFIRMATION: BOOK THE DATE**

Considering it's been a long time since families booked for the previous celebration times, we will ask you to register again via the 'School Interviews' platform. This will help us to confirm the children who will celebrate and any changes to enrolments.

Use the link below to access [schoolinterviews.com.au](https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au). Bookings will close Wednesday November 24 at 5pm.

<https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/login>

Confirmation Event Code:fnedw

### **ARRIVING AT THE CHURCH**

We ask that you arrive at the Church 15 minutes early to collect your liturgy booklet, help your child to put on their sash and find your seats. Pews will have family names on the end so you may find your seat easily.

Before entering the Church, adults over 16 are required to check-in using the Service Victoria App and present their COVID-19 digital certificate to the COVID marshall. Remember to bring along a mask to wear inside the Church.

### **ROLE OF THE SPONSOR**

From time to time, we all need help to live a Christian life, so the sponsor's role is to assist in this. Sponsors also play a special role in supporting you in guiding and teaching your child about living as a Catholic.

### **SASHES**

Your child will wear the traditional sash around their shoulders during the Sacrament of First Eucharist. You will find their sash hanging on the pew assigned to your family. Pews will have family names clearly marked on the ends. We have made provisions for misplaced sashes, so new sashes have been ordered for these children and will be printed with symbols showing all the sacraments they have received so far. The PIPs Team have organised for all sashes to be printed with the relevant symbols.

It's a tradition at Holy Rosary School that dates of sacraments are also printed, however, due to unusual circumstances surrounding COVID, there are a larger number of children and celebrations. Consequently, we have decided not to print dates, to ensure sashes are ready on time. Should you wish to have the date printed on your child's sash, feel free to do so at your leisure, following the sacrament.

### **APPROPRIATE DRESS**

The dress code is smart casual so we ask that you help your child to select their best clothes for this celebration.

### **THE LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING WITH CHRISM**

Your child will come before Fr Thang for the laying on of hands and anointing with the Chrism oil. They will be accompanied by their sponsor who will place their right hand on your child's right shoulder while your child is being confirmed. This ancient action symbolises readiness to confirm receiving the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the spiritual support their sponsor will provide them throughout their lives.

### **CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME**

By now, your child would have chosen to adopt a saint's name and Fr Thang will confirm them with this name.

## RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

During your child's baptism, you and your child's Godparents made promises on their behalf. During Confirmation, your child will renew their response to the same promises by saying, "I do." Please practise this with your child so they are confident on the day. This is also an opportunity to discuss with your child what it means to make a promise.

## FAMILY RESOURCE

Flame of Faith is a family friendly resource that provides basic information about the Sacrament of Confirmation and includes a brief video showing what you can expect to experience. Click on the picture link to view.



We look forward to celebrating this special occasion with you. Feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,  
Sonya