



SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES



Dear Families,

After many false starts, we are pleased to inform families that will celebrate First Eucharist this year. It is scheduled for Tuesday December 7 at 5pm and Wednesday December 8 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 may invite two guests. Anyone aged 16 and over must have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES

We have scheduled the celebrations for 5pm, knowing that it will conclude in time for the children to celebrate with their family over dinner. Alternatively, if this new arrangement doesn't suit your family, you may choose for your child to celebrate during a Parish mass. Families may also choose for their child to celebrate in 2022 with the next cohort. If you wish to pursue these options, email Sonya and include your phone number so it may be passed on to the Parish.

BOOK THE DATE

Use the link below to access [schoolinterviews.com.au](https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au). Bookings will open Thursday 18 November at 4pm. Each celebration is capped at 20 children. Bookings will close Wednesday November 24 at 5pm.

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

Confirmation Event Code:6pp2b

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 marshal. Remember to bring along a mask to wear inside the Church.

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.

GLUTEN FREE HOSTS

Gluten free hosts are available. If your child requires a gluten free host, please contact your child's school.

FAMILY RESOURCE

Flame of Faith is a family friendly resource that provides basic information about the Sacrament of First Eucharist and includes a brief video showing what you can expect to experience. There are some variations between the video and the Melbourne Archdiocese practice, however, much of it is the same. Click on the picture link to view.



APPROPRIATE DRESS

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

We look forward to celebrating this occasion with you. Feel free to contact your child's school should you have any questions.

Warm regards,

Sonya