



First Communion in the Attadale Parish 2018

Dear Parents and children,

I would like to inform the parents of Catholic children in the Attadale parish of the dates of the parish events which lead up to the reception of holy communion for the first time by the children in 2018. If you are not in the Attadale Parish please make contact with your parish priest to discuss the parish programme.

Parents play a key role in passing on faith. Pope Francis said recently, *'Your children's "little eyes" gradually memorize and interpret with the heart that faith is one of the greatest inheritances you have received from your parents and ancestors.... And if you hand on the faith and live it well, that is where the transmission happens.'* Parents are supported in this by the Catholic School Religious Education Programme or the Parish Religious Education Programme (PREP). Parents will need to ensure that their children are attending one or the other.

First communion will be celebrated in the parish during the following parish Masses:

4 August at 6pm; 5 August at 9am;

11 August at 6pm; 12 August at 9am;

18 August at 6pm; 19 August at 9am;

25 August at 6pm; 26 August at 9am;

There is some flexibility, but we try not to have more than ten first communicants at each Mass.

There will be a combined commitment Mass and enrolment for the sacrament at the parish church on Saturday 24 March at 6pm. The commitment ceremony will take place during Mass and after Mass the enrolment for the sacrament will be completed. Please bring a copy of the child's baptismal certificate to the enrolment. This certificate will need to be received before the child can make their first communion. You are asked to pay the \$40 fee when enrolling. At the enrolment you will also indicate which parent-child workshop you will attend.

On 13 June at 5pm and 6.30pm a parent-child workshop will be held in the Bourhill Parish Hall. **A parent** will need to attend one of the workshops with the child. At that workshop a facilitator will help parents and children talk about faith and communion. We have always had positive feedback from the children on the workshop.



On Wednesday, 27 June a retreat will be held for the children. All children are required to attend. Catholic and State schools have given children permission to attend in the past. Please speak to your child's catechist or teacher about it.

After all the first communions have been celebrated, the families come together for a Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday, 8 September at 6pm at which the children receive their certificates. There will be cake and other food after the Mass.

As you can see there are not many events. It is very important for the children and their families to participate regularly in Sunday Mass if they are not already doing so. The Mass is at the heart of our Catholic identity and faith. And participation in Sunday Mass is the best preparation for first communion.

If you have any questions, please do speak to your child's teacher or catechist or call the parish office. This sacrament is a very special moment in your child's journey of faith and your parish community looks forward to supporting you in the journey and in the celebration of the sacrament.

Summary of Dates

Enrolment and Commitment Mass – Saturday, 24 March at 6pm

Workshop – Wednesday, 13 June at 5pm or 6.30pm

Retreat – Wednesday, 27 June

First Communion - August weekends

Thanksgiving Mass – Saturday, 8 September at 6pm

Please mark these dates in your calendar.

God bless.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Fernandez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr Sean Fernandez
Parish Priest