



Sacrament of Penance in the Attadale Parish 2019

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 the sacrament of penance by the children in 2019. 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.

The sacrament of penance will be celebrated in the parish on Wednesday, 18 September at 3.30pm. Please keep this time free.

There will be a combined commitment Mass and enrolment for the sacrament at the parish church on the weekend of Saturday 23 February and Sunday 24 February at all masses. 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 celebrate first penance. You are asked to pay the \$40 fee when enrolling. Please include in an envelope the Enrolment form, Baptism certificate and fee of \$40. Late enrolments will not be accepted.

On 31 July 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, forgiveness and Penance. We have always had positive feedback from the children on the workshop.

After the sacrament of penance all the families come together for a Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday, 21 September at 6pm at which the children receive their certificates. There will be cake and other food after the Mass.

This year the children will be making a retreat **after** their celebration of the sacrament. The retreat will be held at the Schonstatt shrine on Wednesday 30 October, All children are required to attend; it is part of their ongoing faith formation. State schools have given children permission to attend in the past and it is our expectation that other Catholic schools will do the same. Please speak to your child's teacher about it.

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. One could say that we celebrate the Sacrament of Penance so that we can participate more fully in the Mass.

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 – All Masses on weekend 23/24 February

Workshop - Wednesday, 31 July at 5pm or 6.30pm

Celebration of sacrament - Wednesday, 18 September at 3.30pm

Thanksgiving Mass and presentation of certificates - Saturday, 21 September 6pm

Retreat - Wednesday, 30 October, 8.45am - 2.30pm

Please note all of these dates in your calendar.

Pax Christi

Fr Donald Kettle
Parish Priest