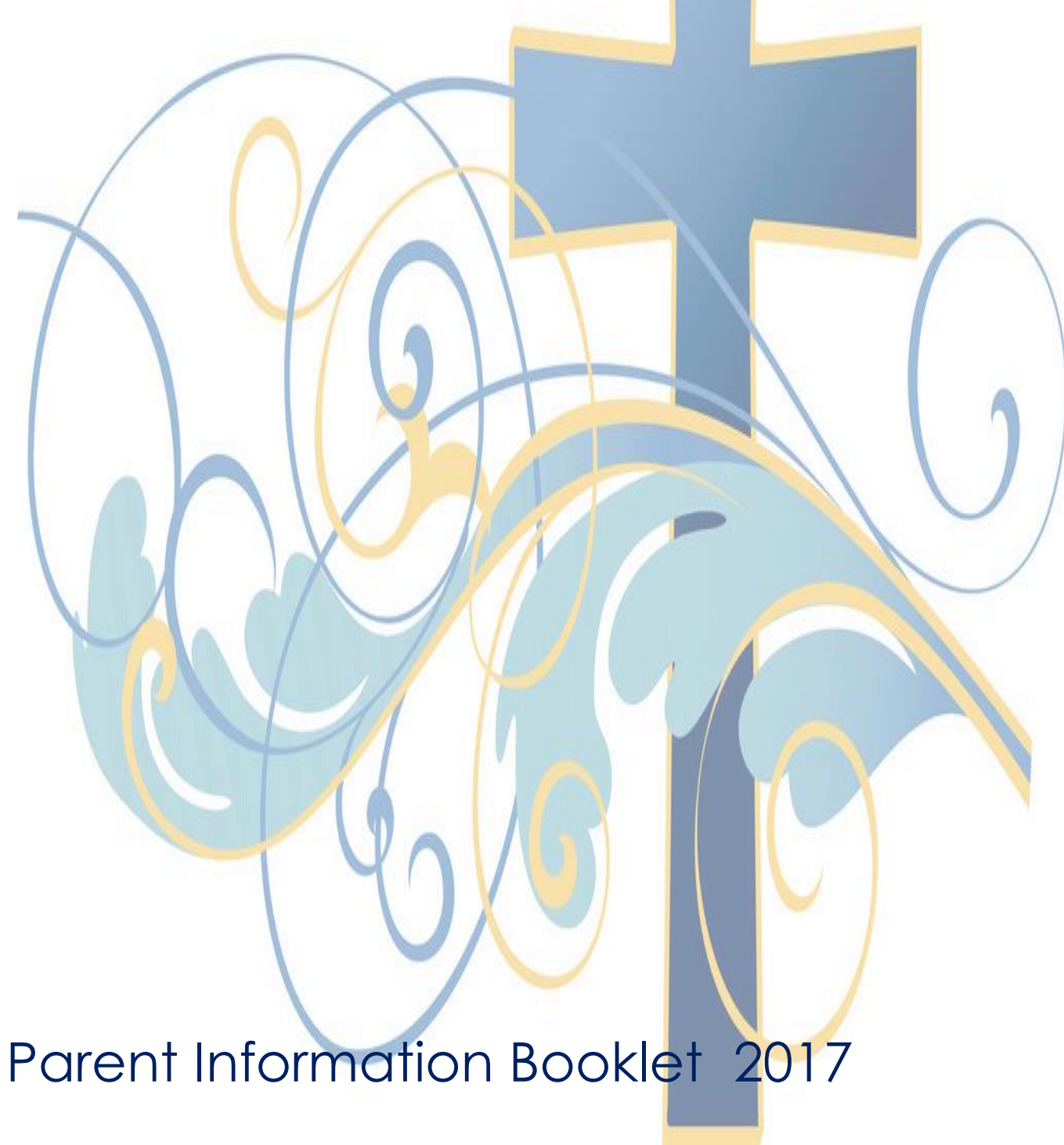


ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE KAMBAH

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN



Parent Information Booklet 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This booklet has been designed to give you an outline of the St Thomas the Apostle Parish Sacramental Program for school age children who are baptised Catholic. The parish is supported by St Thomas the Apostle School to implement the program.

Sacraments within our Parish are usually received in the following grades:

Year 2 Reconciliation

Year 3 Eucharist

Years 5 and 6 Confirmation

If, however, your child/children have missed or received the sacraments in a different order they can be included in our Parish Sacramental program. If this is the case, please contact Father Peter via the Parish Office on (02) 62319219.

An Enrolment Form must be completed for the sacrament your child/children will receive this year. All completed enrolment forms and payment need to be returned to mass on the weekend of 11th-12th February.

To assist with the cost for each sacrament program, a fee of \$25 per child has been set. A late fee of \$20 will be charged to cover admin costs, if enrolling after the Sacramental Enrolment week in February.

Throughout the year, the school newsletter and website, and parish bulletin will publish ongoing sacramental information. You are requested to provide a current email address on the enrolment form. This is especially helpful if your child attends a school other than St Thomas' as information can be quickly provided to families.

Sacramental preparation is a very special time for the whole family. We hope that you will enjoy the journey with your child/children. Any questions can be directed in person or via phone on the numbers listed below,

Peace and God's blessings to all families

Fr Peter My (Parish Priest)

Trudie Riley (Parish Sacramental Assistant)

Penny Vanzwol (Religious Education Coordinator)

Parish Office on 6231 9219

0419 293 190

School Office on 6231 4144



Parish based - Family centred Sacramental Programs

A family-centred program aims to assist parents and children in the preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation. This program is coordinated by the Parish Priest, the REC of St Thomas the Apostle School and Parish Sacramental Assistant.

What does this mean for you?

The Church recognises the importance of parents in their child's faith formation. Therefore, parents are encouraged to take a leading role in the preparation of their child/children for the reception of the sacraments.

Attending Sunday Mass

Receiving a Sacrament of Initiation involves becoming an active member of our church community and there is a need for the children to understand the commitment they are making, as well as feel encouraged and supported by our parish.

It is expected that the children will regularly attend Sunday Mass. During the sacramental program, they will be included in the Mass in a special way. Mass times in our parish are: **Saturday 6pm, Sunday 8.30 and 10.00am.**

Baptism

Baptism is the first Sacrament of Initiation; this is when a person is welcomed into the community of Jesus, the Church. It begins the process of learning and growing in the Christian way of life. Children are often baptised at an early age. If, however, your child is not baptised and you would like him/her to be baptised into the Catholic Church, arrangements can be made. You will need to contact the Parish Secretary, Elizabeth Wilson, who will arrange an appointment with our Parish Priest, Father Peter My.

What if our family is not Catholic but wants to know more about the Catholic Faith?

Speak to Father Peter to discuss our Catholic faith, what it means to be a Catholic or how you can support your child in their faith journey.

Home Groups – Leaders and Hosts

A vital component of our Parish based – family centred Sacramental Program is our Home Groups.

As each sacrament approaches, parents will be required to attend the Parent Information Night and select a night for your family to be placed in a Home Group. Most of the sacramental preparation is carried out in home groups. Usually 4-6 families gather together for three, one hour sessions. These families are led through the program by a group leader.

Please consider taking on the role of group leader or host. It is not a difficult task as all materials are supplied and guidance is given to the leaders prior to the start of the program. Each group needs a volunteer host and leader.

Sacramental Procedures

Each of our sacramental programs follows a similar procedure:

1. Enrolment and payment during a weekend parish mass in February.
2. Expectation that your family is attending church regularly.
3. Parental attendance at an information night at St Thomas the Apostle Church to commence preparation for your child to receive the sacrament.
4. Child and Parent(s) to attend a parish presentation mass.
5. Child and Parent(s) to participate in three preparation home nights.
6. Child to attend a retreat day, hosted by St Thomas the Apostle Primary School.
7. Participation in a Sacramental Mass or Ceremony.



CONFIRMATION (TERM 1 and 2, 2017)

Confirmation is now celebrated in our parish on a two year cycle (odd years)
Confirmation is offered to baptised Catholic children in Years 5 and 6 or older who have already received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Confirmation is the completion of the Sacraments of Initiation. We consciously acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Confirmation is offered to baptised Catholic children in Years 5 and 6 or older who have already received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Preparation for this Sacrament begins in Term 1 with a Parent Information Night on Wednesday 29th March at 7pm in the church. You will be required to present your child at a Parish Mass on the weekend of 1st-2nd April. Three home night sessions will take place in Weeks 2,3 and 4 of Term 2. Specific dates for home group meetings will be set once the groups are formed at the Information Night.

The children will be asked to choose a Saint's name and a sponsor for Confirmation. (The sponsor must be a confirmed Catholic, 16 years or older. Parents cannot be sponsors).

Confirmation Retreat day will be on Friday 26th May at the school. This day will be a reflective day for the Confirmees where they will participate in various activities, individual Reconciliation and a practice for the celebration.

Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday 28th May at 8.00am and 10.00am masses. Your family will be allocated a mass time. Confirmees wear a red robe provided by the parish.



FIRST EUCHARIST (TERM 3)

Jesus initiated the Sacrament of the Eucharist at the last supper, when he took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his disciples and said; "This is my body". He took the wine and said "This is my blood". This sacred meal we share together at Mass is our food for the Christian journey. It sustains us and nourishes us throughout life's trials.

This Sacrament is offered to baptised Catholic children in Year 3 or older who have already received the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Sacrament Enrolment Weekend 11th-12th February

To enroll for First Eucharist, you must bring the Enrolment form and payment to a Sacramental Enrolment Weekend mass at St Thomas the Apostle Parish. Masses are celebrated on **Saturday at 6pm and Sunday at 8.30 am & 10am.**

The First Eucharist Program runs during Term 3. The dates for 2017 are:

- **A Parent Information Night on Wednesday 26th July at 7pm in the church.**
- **Attending a Presentation Mass on the weekend of 29th – 30th July.**
- **Attending Sunday Mass regularly, especially the 4 weekend masses during the Sacramental Program.**
- **Three home nights in Weeks 4,5 and 6 of Term 3.**
- **A retreat day on Friday 8th September at St Thomas the Apostle School.** The children will participate in various activities, add a symbol to their sacramental stole, go to individual Reconciliation and practice for the celebration.
- **First Eucharist Sacramental Mass at 10am on Sunday 10th September.** Children wear a white robe provided by the parish.



FIRST RECONCILIATION (TERM 4)

This Sacrament is about renewing and refreshing our relationship with God and with others. It is offered to children in Year Two or older who are baptised Catholics. Your child will need to receive this sacrament prior to being able to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.

Sacrament Enrolment Weekend 11th-12th February

To enroll for First Reconciliation, you must bring the form and payment to a Sacramental Enrolment Weekend mass at St Thomas the Apostle Parish. Masses are celebrated on **Saturday at 6pm and Sunday at 8.30 am & 10am.**

The First Reconciliation Program runs during Term 4. The dates for 2017 are:

- **A Parent Information Night on Wednesday 18th October at 7pm in the church.**
- **Attending a Presentation Mass on the weekend of 2st-22nd October.**
- **Attending Sunday Mass regularly, especially the 4 weekend masses during the Sacramental Program.**
- **Three home nights in Weeks 4, 5 and 6 of Term 4.**
- **A retreat morning on Tuesday 28th November at St Thomas the Apostle School.** The children will participate in prayer, begin their sacramental stole and practice for the ceremony.
- **Celebration of the Sacrament of First Reconciliation on Wednesday 29th November at 6.30pm.** First Reconciliation will be celebrated with Father Peter and visiting priests. Children wear neat clothing.

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH KAMBAH

Father Peter My Parish Office ph: 6231 9219

Mass Times: Saturday 6pm, Sunday 8.30am and 10am.

St Thomas the Apostle Primary School ph: 6231 4144

Sacrament information can be found on the school website
<http://sttap.act.edu.au/communication>

