



11 March 2021

Dear Parents,

SUBJECT: Sacramental Program for 2021

The sacramental program this year for children, whose parents present them for First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion will be moved to the latter part of the year. This applies to students who live in the parish and/or are associated with the schools in the parish (Star of the Sea Parish Primary School and St. Michael's College).

When we reviewed the manner of celebrating the sacraments in 2020, the consensus was that it brought families together, especially the children, in a more personal way; it created a more intimate setting and gave the sacrament a more evident catechetical impact.

Of course, these sacraments are important. They delineate the Christian growth of the individual and, hopefully, integrate them more fully into the life of the Church. Most importantly, like prayer, they bring young people into an increasingly personal relationship with God.

Through **Reconciliation** we signal that Christ, as we see in the scriptures, forgives our human brokenness and vulnerability when the search for happiness is wayward and harmful (sinful). The sacrament of **Confirmation** continues the sacrament of Baptism with a 'second anointing', suggesting a maturing of faith at a time of human growth and personal flourishing. And the reception of **first Holy Communion** brings young people into a full participation in the Eucharistic community that regularly gathers as a parish and elsewhere.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Parish looks forward to celebrating with you these sacramental moments in the faith life of your families. Through the parish schools and outreach you will receive the necessary information in due course. If you have any questions you may contact your school or me. We will be happy to answer any of your questions.

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Dennis Rochford MSC
Acting for the Parish Priest