

Our Lady of the Southern Cross Sacramental Program 2025

To celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation means to be wrapped in a warm embrace - Pope Francis

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The children below have indicated that they intend to participate in the OLSC Sacramental Program for 2025. In particular, they would like to receive the Sacrament of Penance, or First Reconciliation. **If your child's name is not on the list below and you believe it should be, please contact me as soon as possible.** If you do not intend for your child to celebrate the Sacrament, please disregard this letter. To receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, children must be baptised Catholic or have been welcomed into the Catholic Church.

Abby P	Alexander C	Andre C	Annabelle Z	Arlo O
Athena V	Audrey S	Boston P	David E	Dion D
Eric B	Finn M	Flynn S	Franco V	Fritha S
Genelia A	Harper C	Hayden E	Jentezen S	Josephine P
Kristian D	Liam A	Marquez J	Miguel F	Nina E
Paolo M	Piper C	Veyron C	Zowie N	Caleb O
Dau L	Kuol K	Seth B	Aubriana M	

Children are preparing for the sacrament as part of their Religious Education studies this term. An important part of this preparation is the participation in a Spirituality Day, in which your child will participate on **Tuesday 11th March**. A Family Sacramental session will also take place in the evening of **Tuesday 11th March** at the OLSC Sports Centre, from **6.30-7.30pm**. Attendance at this evening is compulsory for those receiving the sacrament, as the program is designed to deepen the faith and understanding of all within the family, and allow the sacrament to be celebrated with reverence and understanding.

We also request that children attend the two Community Masses prior to receiving the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. These are on **16th February** and **16th March** at **10am** at the OLSC Sports Centre. **Everyone is invited to attend the celebration, in support of those receiving the sacrament.** The Sacrament of Penance will be celebrated on **Tuesday 18th March**, at the OLSC Sports Centre at **6.30pm**.

As a school we look forward to spending some time with you and your children to reflect and prepare for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If you have any questions please see me at school or email me at: jdini@olscwyn.catholic.edu.au

Kind Regards,
John Dini - Catholic Identity Leader

First Reconciliation - What To Expect

The following is a guide to what will happen on the evening of the sacrament. I invite you to read through this information and discuss it with your child. At school this term, students will also learn about the structure of the sacrament and have opportunities to 'role play'.

During the Sacrament of Reconciliation liturgy, we will begin by praying together and listening to Scripture. Then, we will be led in an examination of conscience, when we can think about our choices. Then students will go to Father for their individual confession. Parents, you will accompany your child to Father and introduce them to him. Then you will return to your seat.

The following are the steps of the individual confession your child will participate in:

Greet Father

Parents introduce their child to the Priest. Child sits facing the Priest.

Sign of the Cross

Begin by blessing yourself

"In the name of the Father..."

Asking for Forgiveness

Begin by saying these words

"Bless me Father, I have sinned, this is my First Confession and these are my sins..."

In your own words tell the Priest the things that you are sorry for.

Penance

Listen to the Priest as he explains your penance.

Act Of Contrition

Say an Act of Contrition

'O My God, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, because you are so good and with your help, I will not sin again.'

Absolution

The Priest will pray the prayer of Absolution over you *"I absolve you of your sins, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen"*

while you make the sign of the cross.

"In the name of the Father..."

After all students have made their Individual Confessions, we will offer a prayer of thanksgiving and then sing a final song.