

4 February 2026

Re: The Sacrament of Confirmation – 2026 Programme

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Greetings of peace from the parish.

The Sacramental Programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation is now being prepared. If your child/children are around 12 years old and/or older or in Year 6 at school, this is the right time to have the grace of Baptism confirmed and be Sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit, in order to live actively as a disciple of Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church.

The Programme for the Sacramental Preparation. Please note the dates for **Confirmation**.

Enrolment: Wednesday 18 March at 6:00 pm in the Torreggiani Room.

Parents gather for information on the Confirmation programme, and to enrol their child/children as candidate/s. **It is a requirement for you to provide us a copy of the Candidate's Baptismal Certificate. If your child is a student at St Mary's Parish School or was baptised in the Catholic Parish of Armidale, the baptism record is accessible to the parish and you do not need to provide a copy. However, if your child is at a school other than St Mary's and was not baptised in the Catholic Parish of Armidale, you are required to submit a copy with your child's enrolment. Enrolment is not effective until the Baptism Certificate has been lodged.** The cost of materials is \$20 (Certificate, medal, work booklet etc) can be paid during enrolment or at the Parish Office.

The programme is centred around a 45-minute lesson at 9:00 am on Sunday. Every candidate is expected to attend the 8:00 am or 10:00 am Mass either before or following the lesson in the Torreggiani Room, off the carpark at the rear of the Cathedral. The essence of the programme is to attend Sunday Mass and be part of the Community of Believers, to meet with Catholics who love and practice their faith.

The lesson dates are Sunday's **22 March, 19 & 26 April & 3, 10 and the final lesson including a rehearsal will be 17 May**. It is expected that candidates will attend Sunday Mass with their families during the programme.

Sponsors

The Church requires Sponsors of Candidates for Confirmation to be over 16 years of age, to be fully initiated into the Church (baptism, confirmation, holy communion) who pray and practise their faith (a parent cannot be a sponsor of their child). Sponsors should be chosen carefully. It is presumed that Candidates have been baptised, made their First Holy Communion, and have been to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

PTO

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be received by the candidates on Pentecost Sunday, 24 May at the 10am Mass.

This is a wonderful time in the life of your child whom you brought to the Church for Baptism. We are looking forward to a meaningful and prayerful programme for the candidates and for you as parents/guardians as well. May God bless all our endeavours.

Yours in Christ, through Mary, our Blessed Mother,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Fr Paul Chandler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr Paul Chandler
Administrator