



Our Lady of Fatima Parish Caringbah

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Sacrament of Confirmation 2022

Dear Parent / Guardian,

You are receiving this letter as a parent / guardian (hereafter referred to as parent) of a student who attends either Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School, or a non-Catholic school within the boundaries of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Parish Caringbah.

Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation completes a child's initiation into the Church. In the Archdiocese of Sydney, this sacrament is received by young people in Year 6 or older, who have already received Baptism, First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, desire Christ in their life and demonstrate an active faith commitment in the Church. The strengthening of the Holy Spirit, along with the opportunity for candidates to publicly state their faith, means that this is a significant moment in their Christian journey, and a time of great blessing for them, your family, and the whole Church community. It is a point in time in which they are able to affirm their Christian belief and way of life for themselves as they look ahead to their lives as disciples of Christ and members of God's family as young adults.

We wish to inform you the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place over the following mass times;

Friday 24 June at 6.00pm,
Sunday 26 June at 12 noon

Parish Faith Formation Program is for all candidates to participate in. There are 4 weeks of preparation lessons for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Your connection to this parish is an important element of your child's experience of the sacrament – it is a challenge to speak of the community of faith if your child does not have a sense of being part of this community, therefore we ask that at least 1 parent must be in attendance with their child in the preparation period including mass attendance.

Preparation lessons commence on Wednesday 18 May 2022 / Thursday 19 May 2022 at 5pm and will be 1 hour in duration at the parish.

Please choose to attend either on Wednesday or Thursday. You are only required to attend the preparation lessons once per week. Each candidate will be issued a workbook, we ask that as a family you look through the lessons and any unfinished work is to be done at home.

Some of the components of catechesis in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation include:

- Our baptismal promises express the beliefs we proclaim in faith.
- Jesus promised he would not leave his disciples as orphans. He would send the Holy Spirit to be with them forever.
- God is beyond our limited human understanding; however, God through Scripture and the use of symbols help us to understand something about God.
- The Holy Spirit came on Pentecost Day, giving the Church all the gifts necessary to preach the Gospel to the whole world.
- Identify the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and appreciate how they benefit the candidate and the whole church.

Enrolment: Candidates must be baptized catholic. If your child was baptized at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Parish Caringbah, their baptismal record is on file at the parish and no certificate is required (please include the date on the enrolment form, for example OLF, 5 July 2013).

If your child was baptized at another parish you need to provide a copy of their Baptismal Certificate. If you do not have a copy of their certificate, you can contact that parish and request a copy.

Every candidate must have received the Sacrament of First Reconciliation and Sacrament of First Holy Communion prior.

Cost of enrolment to cover the cost of the workbook, Confirmation sash and certificate is \$40. Payment can be made in cash or EFT in the parish office.

Mass attendance is compulsory over the course of 4 weekends at either the Saturday 4.00pm or 5.30pm mass or Sunday 9.30am mass. Candidates will be issued with a mass attendance card which they are required to have signed or stamped by the Parish Priest, Acolyte or Sacramental Coordinator every time they attend mass. If they happen to attend mass at a different parish, we just ask for the priest to initial where provided.

Certificate: Candidates will receive their certificates the following weekend at mass. You can attend either Saturday 2 July 2022 at 4.00pm or 5.30pm or Sunday 3 July 2022 at 9.30am.

At Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Parish Caringbah, we see Sacramental Preparation as partnership between the parish and your family. As parents you are the most important link in your child's religious education and key to this is regular attendance at Our Lady of Fatima masses.

Please find attached the required enrolment form and practical details for this sacrament.

If you require any further information to the above mentioned please do not hesitate to contact Wendy Macken, Sacramental Coordinator on 0410 699 363 or via email sacraments@olofcaringbah.org.au.

Blessings and Peace

Rev Father Julian Belich
Parish Priest

Wendy Macken
Sacramental Coordinator