



My Dear Parent, Guardian or Carer,

May the peace of Christ be with you and your family.

I am very blessed to write to you for the first time since I became the parish priest of St. Andrew's church and Our Lady of the Southern Cross. First and foremost I thank you very much for enrolling your child in our parish school. As many Catholic and non-Catholic parents have told me you want your child to have not only academic achievements but also the ability to grow in human and moral values. These values you sought for your child are founded in our Catholic faith that we live. Your child will and could acquire these values in life more by living them in their everyday lives than just by learning in a classroom.

Your child is your priority and you want the best for him or her in life. I know that you work so hard and make lot of sacrifices to provide the environment and the opportunities for your child to achieve this. As you do this in their academic and other fields like sports or other talents I invite you to do the same in their spiritual life and growth too. As they need regular training and practice in all of them they need regular involvement in their spiritual activities too not only in the school but mainly at home and in the family. One of these activities is participating the weekend Masses.

We all know that children need continuous encouragement and sometimes initiation from the family to participate at various activities for their growth and wellbeing. Attending Mass every weekend also might need this.

So, in order to help you to help them we will be giving them a '**Passport for Sacrament**'. It is a very successful practice in many parishes in preparing the children for sacraments. But we cannot do anything and your children cannot achieve any spiritual growth unless we have your fullest co-operation in this. Please help us to help your child.

The **Passport for Sacrament** will have 12 pages for 12 weeks of preparation before they receive the sacrament. Each weekend you child goes for Mass he or she will meet the priest after Mass and get the page signed or stamped just like getting a visa in their spiritual journey towards the sacrament. This will encourage them to participate at Mass every weekend but also will enable us to see how far they have lived their faith in preparing for their sacrament. It is also my prime duty to see that each child is prepared well for the sacrament they want to receive and also given the environment to live that sacrament both in school and in the family. As it is for the good of your child I ask you for your fullest support. Further information will be given to you and your child next year.

Thank you. God bless you and your loved ones.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. M. Albert Yogarajah