

**FAMILY CENTRED, PARISH BASED,
SCHOOL AND CATECHIST SUPPORTED
SACRAMENT PROGRAM
ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH
BERWICK
2012**



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For the Primary School Child, 'Education in Faith'
takes place in a number of environments.

They are:

Your **FAMILY**,

The **PARISH**

And

The **SCHOOL/CATECHIST PROGRAM.**

In the family, the child learns to **LIVE** his/her faith.

In the parish, the child learns to **CELEBRATE** his/her faith.

In the school and catechist program, the child learns to **KNOW** his/her
faith.

These three environments work hand-in-hand in promoting the overall
faith growth of your child.



Parish Sacrament Team—2012

Parish Priest: Father Peter Slater
Assistant Priest: Father Jeff Kleynjans

Parish Representatives:

Liz Overdyk—Pastoral Associate

Lucia Mac—Sacrament Co-ordinator

Viviana Dominguez/Dorota Shields—Parish Secretaries

Jenny Benbow—St. Michael's School Religious Education Co-ordinator

Peggy Harvey—St. Catherine's School Religious Education Co-ordinator

Simon Greely—St. Brigid's School Religious Education Co-ordinator

Catechist Leaders

Parish Volunteers

Our team works together to provide support and encouragement for families. We plan and help to organise the preparation and celebration of the Sacraments.

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ST MICHAEL'S PARISH, BERWICK
SACRAMENT PROGRAM**

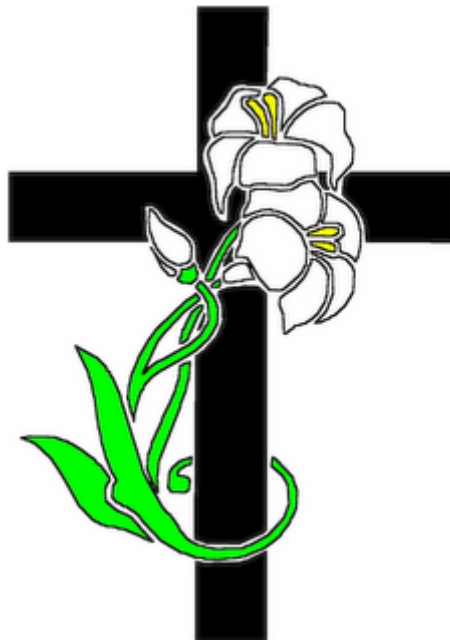
2012

Welcome to the 2012 Sacrament Program for St Michael's Parish, Berwick. This booklet is published by the Parish Sacrament Team and it provides important dates and practical information that you will need to know regarding the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation for 2012.

It is published as a guide in the faith development of your child.

Requirements for parents and children have been clearly outlined.

The team welcomes the opportunity to work with you in this journey of faith.



Policy for full Initiation of children into the Sacramental Life of the Faith Community

Here at St Michael's Parish we are committed to a Family centred, Parish based, School and Catechist supported Sacrament Program as outlined in the Sale Diocesan Policy. We believe that the Sacraments of Initiation are part of a process that takes place over many years. They begin with Baptism and include Communion and Confirmation. The sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated during this time. There are many people who play a role in this process.

The Role of Families

Parents are the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith, particularly by the example of their lives. Parents are also the most influential teachers of their children. Nobody else has the same power to shape the attitudes and values of a child. Your involvement in Sacrament preparation can never be replaced. The practice of your faith is the best example you can give. Knowledge is not the key factor here, but faith and a willingness to spend time sharing that faith with your child.

The Role of the Parish

A Christian family lives within a wider parish community which also has a responsibility to share its faith and nurture your child. The parish is responsible for coordinating Sacrament preparation and for providing any necessary resources. This is a role of assisting families who are involved in the Sacrament program, and of providing faith education for both adults and children.

The Role of the Parish School

One of the ways in which the parish fulfils its responsibilities in sacrament preparation is through the involvement of the parish school. Units on the sacraments are taught at every level of the school (Prep-Year 6). This means that the children's understanding and learning is helped to develop throughout their school life at a level appropriate to them.

The Role of the Catechist Program

This program is available for children not attending one of our Parish Catholic Schools. It is offered in preparation for each Sacrament.

Therefore we believe that preparation of children for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation is the responsibility of the parents and the Parish community.

The role of the Catholic school and Parish Catechist program is to support and formalise the faith formation which happens in the home. It is important that children experience their parents as their first educators in faith and that Catholic practice is something they associate primarily with home, rather than school.



THE SACRAMENTS OFFERED BY OUR PROGRAM



RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we are given the opportunity to say sorry before God and make peace. The Sacrament is God's great sign of forgiveness and healing.

The Sacrament is celebrated early in Grade 3 during the season of Lent. Enrolment is offered to children towards the end of Grade 2.

FIRST COMMUNION

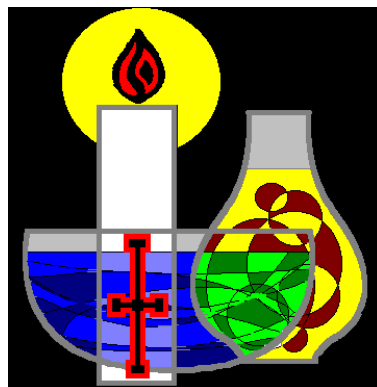
As baptised members of the Church, the Celebration of Eucharist is the liturgical focus of our community. The community gathers around the altar to remember Christ's death and resurrection, to give thanks and praise to God and to be nourished.

Enrolment is offered to children at Grade 4 level and above who have celebrated Reconciliation

CONFIRMATION

At Confirmation, we are anointed again with the oil of chrism as we were at our Baptism. This strengthens and confirms the gift of the Holy Spirit that we received at Baptism.

Enrolment is for children at Grade 6 level and above. The celebration of Reconciliation is a prerequisite for Confirmation.



SACRAMENT PROGRAM

FAMILY COMMITMENT

- Parents are expected to support and help their child through the Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation programs.
- At least one parent is expected to attend meetings and workshops relevant to each Sacrament. Some of these will be parent only sessions, others will be with your child.
- Regular attendance at mass is the norm for Catholics, families are also invited and expected to attend special Parish Masses as part of their preparation for each Sacrament.
- Enrolment forms are distributed at the Parent Only Meeting.
- Commitment certificates are given out at the Parents only session and are to be returned at the commitment mass.
- Parents are required to return relevant forms by the due dates.
- Celebration dates will be given out at the parent/child workshops.
- A white sacrament scarf (stole) is required for each of the sacrament events.
- There is a fee for each Sacrament to cover costs of materials, certificates, medals, photocopying etc. This cost is covered by the Sacrament levy at the Parish Schools. Those not attending Parish schools pay when they enrol.



SACRAMENT PROGRAM AT ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH **FOR 2012**

DATES AND TIMES FOR MEETINGS

SACRAMENT INFORMATION MEETING (This is for those new to the sacrament program. It is intended to inform parents of our Sacrament program. If you have more than one child it only needs to be attended once.)

Tuesday November 22nd 1.30 pm or 7.30 pm. (only need to attend one of these times.)

RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

- **Parents only meeting – 7th Feb 1.30 pm or 7.30 pm**
- **Commitment masses – 11th and 12th Feb**
- **Parent/child workshop – 28th; 29th Feb ;1st March & 6th; 7th; 8th March at 7.30 pm in the School Stadium**
- **Blessing of children masses – 17th and 18th March**
- **Ceremonies – 22nd; 23rd; 24th; 28th; 29th; 30th March**
- **Catechist classes Tuesdays 4-5 pm from 14th Feb to 20th March**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM

- **Parents only meeting – 7th August 1.30 pm or 7.30 pm**
- **Commitment masses – 11th and 12th August**
- **Parent/child workshop – 21st; 22nd; 23rd & 28th; 29th; 30th August at 7.30 pm in the School Stadium**
- **Blessing of children masses – 15th and 16th September**
- **Reflection Day (children only) - 9th October**
- **Ceremonies – 13th; 14th; 20th; 21st; 27th; 28th October**
- **Catechist classes - Tuesdays 4-5 pm from 14th Aug to 18th Sept**

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM–

- **Parents only meeting – 24th April 1.30 pm or 7.30 pm**
- **Commitment masses – 12th and 13th May**
- **Parent/child workshop –15th; 16th; 17th; 22nd; 23rd; 24th May at 7.30 pm in the School Stadium**
- **Blessing of children masses – 26th and 27th May**
- **Reflection day (children only) - 5th June**
- **Ceremonies— 16th; 21st and 23rd June**
- **Catechist classes Tuesdays 4-5 pm from 1st May to 5th June**

**We must keep in mind that
the invitation to
Initiation into the
Community of the Church is
God's work;
God INVITES
but never imposes.**

**When God's desire
and our openness touch,
the result is
the Grace of God at work in
our world,
according to
God's Divine Plan.**

