



ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
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20 May, 2018

Dear parents / guardians,

Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation completes a child's initiation into the Church. In the Archdiocese of Sydney, this sacrament is usually received by young people in Year 6 or older, who have received 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 the 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.

Confirmation Enrolment Mass

Enrolment Masses will be held on Saturday 2 June at 6pm or Sunday 3 June at 8am and 10am Mass. Please complete the Confirmation Enrolment Form prior to attending the enrolment Mass by clicking this link <https://goo.gl/forms/yS8oi6YI0moaANV72>.

Candidates must attend one of these Masses to enrol for the program. If your child belongs to one of the Eastern Catholic Rites (Maronite, etc), it is possible to participate in the program and receive a blessing at the Confirmation Mass.

Please discuss this with other parents and help to make sure that everyone is enrolled on-time and attends the enrolment Mass.

Parent Formation Evening

The program begins with a Parent Formation Evening to be held on Tuesday 26th June at 7pm in the Fr Bush Parish Hall. This is an essential part of the program FOR PARENTS ONLY. This meeting is compulsory for at least one parent of every enrolled child to attend.

The main preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation takes place on Tuesday evenings during August. The program will draw on the Sunday celebration of Mass, and it will be important for the candidates to attend Mass every weekend in preparation for receiving the Sacrament.

I look forward to praying with you and sharing the time ahead with your families. The best person to contact about sacramental preparation issues is Marisa on 0402 902 871, Liz on 0412 802 025 or email sacraments@stmichaelsmeadowbank.org.au

May God bless you at this very special time in your child's life.

Fr James McCarthy
Parish Administrator

The program offered is a parish-based program, and the elements are as follows:

1. ENROLMENT MASS

Saturday 2 June, 6.00pm Mass OR
Sunday 3 June, 8.00am Mass OR
Sunday 3 June, 10.00am Mass

2. PARENT EVENING Tuesday 26 June, 7.00pm – 8.15pm
St Michael's Fr Bush Parish Hall, Meadowbank

Parents come together to explore this sacrament. At least one parent of each candidate is asked to attend this meeting. Our team will address parents, with the aim of helping parents in their own understanding of this sacrament.

3. COMMITMENT and CREED MASS

Saturday 4 August, 6.00pm Mass OR
Sunday 5 August, 8.00am Mass OR
Sunday 5 August, 10.00am Mass

Candidates will be presented with the Creed at Mass and asked to reaffirm their belief publicly. This is the faith of the Church that they will profess on their Confirmation Day. They will then commit to the program and blessed in their preparation.

4. PREPARATION SESSIONS 7pm – 8.15pm, Bush Parish Hall

Session 1 : Tuesday 7 August OR Wednesday 8 August
Session 2 : Tuesday 14 August – Bishop Night
Session 3 : Tuesday 21 August OR Wednesday 22 August – Father/Child night
Session 4 : Tuesday 28 August – Sponsor Night

5. CONFIRMATION PREPARATION WEEKEND MASSES

Occurs at any Parish Sunday Masses: Saturday 6pm, Sunday 8am or Sunday 10am.

Session 1 : 11/12 August
Session 2 : 18/19 August
Session 3 : 25/26 August
Session 4 : 1 / 2 September

6. CONFIRMATION RETREAT Wednesday 29 August 9am to 3.20pm

A whole day retreat for all candidates. The retreat will be facilitated at the St Michael's Meadowbank Primary School. Candidates from other schools are encouraged to attend.

7. COMMUNITY SERVICE

Candidates are asked to complete 1 hour of community, school or parish service. Candidates will be asked to write about the experience and to present and explain the experience at one of the Sunday Masses. More information will be provided at the Formation Meeting.

8. CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL Tuesday 11 September – 7.00pm

9. RITE OF RECONCILIATION Tuesday 18 September, 6.30pm

This is an opportunity for candidates, parents and sponsors to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation just prior to the celebration of Confirmation.

10. CONFIRMATION MASS Friday 21 September at 7.00pm