



St Paul of the Cross Parish  
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Dear Parents

## PREPARING TO CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENTS

# THE SACRAMENTS



St Paul of the Cross Parish, Glen Osmond/Parkside invites you to consider whether your child is ready to begin the formal preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation into the Catholic faith.

The process of initiation of children gives significant importance to parish community life. The witness of faith in the whole Catholic community, through welcoming, nurturing, and continual support, invites belonging and a commitment to grow in faith both personally and communally. We, as a Christian community, strive to offer opportunities to parents to develop their role as the first educators of their children's faith.



The parish with the support of the schools, St Raphael's, and Mercedes College, offer a comprehensive process to assist you in your child's preparation- this includes a small workshop program over 3 weeks before Reconciliation and another one the following year over 5 weeks prior to Confirmation and Eucharist. A valuable opportunity for parents to develop a deeper understanding of the theology and reasoning behind these Sacraments is provided on the Parent Information Nights.



IS MY CHILD READY AND IS IT AN APPROPRIATE TIME FOR THEM TO PREPARE FOR RECONCILIATION, CONFIRMATION AND COMMUNION?

The first and most crucial factor is that the child has a genuine desire to know more about, and to participate more fully in relationship with God and God's church community. Age and school year level are not primary determining factors. We ask that you think and pray about your child's readiness and your willingness to fully participate and support your child in their preparation program.

*Official pre-requisites are that the child has been baptised in the Catholic Church and are over the age of eight for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*

THE PROCESS

Our Sacramental preparation process begins with enrolment. If you wish to enrol your child in the process, please complete the attached enrolment form and the \$30 enrolment fee and return it to the Parish Office or to Sue Schulz, Pastoral Associate, at the email address below. And if your child was NOT baptised in St Paul of the Cross Parish Glen Osmond/ Parkside (either St Raphael's Church or St Paul of the Cross Church) then please enclose a copy of your child's Baptism certificate with the enrolment form.

And as part of the policy and procedures outlined by the Adelaide Archdiocese regarding the preparation of children to receive the Sacraments, someone from St Paul of the Cross Parish Glen Osmond/ Parkside will be having conversations with families after they have completed the enrolment form.

Following the conversation, a Parent Information Session for Reconciliation will be held at St Paul of the Cross Church in mid-March. At least **one parent of those enrolled must attend this session**. Further information regarding the dates and times of the sessions and ceremony will be discussed at this meeting. Please remember that children receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation the year prior to receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.

Should you have any queries concerning any of this information, please contact me, Sue Schulz (Pastoral Associate, St Paul of the Cross Parish Glen Osmond/Parkside) on 8338 1277 or email [sue.schulz@themonastery.net.au](mailto:sue.schulz@themonastery.net.au)

Yours in the Spirit



Sue Schulz

Pastoral Associate

