

# Hello Everyone and welcome to the Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2017!

Thank you for enquiring into the celebration of Confirmation for your child. Children of the parish, already baptised into the Catholic faith, are invited to complete their initiation as part of a parish based, family centred preparation program. In line with the new Archdiocesan policy, the children will only be making one sacrament this year. The process followed in Mother of Mercy is as follows:

## 1. ENROLMENT

The **ENROLMENT/ COMMITMENT MASS** is the 9.30am Mass on **19 February 2017** at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Hendra. In case you will not be able to attend this Mass, you can enrol at the other Masses on that weekend (Saturday, 5.30pm in Hendra; Sunday, 8.30am in Northgate or Sunday, 6.00pm in Hendra). **Please see Father Paul 10 minutes before Mass to let him know that you are present for enrolment.**

Please find attached an **Enrolment Form** which you are asked to complete. Also attached is a **"Pray for Me" sheet**, which we ask you and your child to prepare. You are invited to place this sheet on the lines at the side altar of the church so that the parish community can pray for your child during their preparation. **Please bring both of these items along to the Enrolment Mass.**

During the Commissioning Mass, after the Homily, parents and children for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be asked to come forward and stand close to the steps of the Sanctuary facing the Congregation. They will respond to the questions committing themselves to the program.

## 2. SESSIONS

The initial session **FOR PARENTS ONLY** will be held on **Wednesday 26 April 2017 at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall at Hendra**. This is a Formation Session with **Sr Kari Hatherell** from Evangelisation Brisbane and is a mandatory component of the sacramental program.

The **first session for children and parents** will be held on **Tuesday 2 May 2017 at 6.30pm** in the **Parish Hall at Hendra**. This is the preparation session with **Carol Danby** from Archdiocesan Youth and Children's Ministry from Evangelisation Brisbane.

**The second session - Tuesday 9 May 2017, 6.30pm** in the **Parish Hall at Hendra** - preparation session with the Sacramental Team for **parents and children**.

**The third session - Tuesday 16 May 2017, 6.30pm-7.30pm** – this is planned as a Home Group Session for **parents and children**. We are looking for families to volunteer to host a few families for this particular session. **The lessons are prepared for you and the group to participate together.** Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to host a home group session. It is a very rewarding experience!

**The fourth session - Tuesday 23 May 2017, 6.30pm-7.30pm**, in the **Parish Hall at Hendra** - preparation session with the Sacramental Team for **parents and children**.

## 3. REHEARSAL

**Tuesday 30 May 2017, 4pm-5pm** – we will have a rehearsal for the Confirmation ceremony in the church.

**Friday 2 June 2017, 5.30pm - CONFIRMATION MASS**

#### 4. MEETING THE PARISH PRIEST

There is a mandatory requirement to meet Fr. Paul, the Parish Priest, before the Easter school holidays. This will be a short, individual meeting with Father to familiarise children and their parents with him and his ministry. Please make an appointment with him through the parish office at your earliest convenience - phone 3268 3040.

#### 5. COFIRMATION SPONSOR

The sponsor assists in preparing the candidate to celebrate Confirmation. They present the candidate to the bishop on the day of Confirmation, and continue to support the confirmed afterwards. The sponsor serves as an example for the candidate of actively and joyfully living their Catholic faith in daily life.

Because Confirmation is a reaffirmation of the promises made at baptism, the child's godparent is the most appropriate person to be the sponsor. However if the child's godparent is not available, together with your child, consider a Catholic who already encourages and assists the child in their faith. Sponsors should be: at least 16 years old; not the child's parent; a Catholic who has been confirmed, received communion; and who lives a life of faith. Please consider the sponsor for your child.

#### 6. PATRON SAINT

It is our Catholic tradition to choose the name of the Saint as the Confirmation name for the Candidate and to adopt this Saint as a special heavenly patron or to honor a saint to whom one had a special devotion.

#### 7. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A. According to the policy we request the copy of the Baptismal Certificate of the child as well as the copies of Baptismal Certificates of his/her parents.

**Please bring these copies to the office before Easter school holidays.**

B. Payment for the materials also needs to be made **before the first session, 2 May 2017**. The cost of material is \$40 and is payable by direct debit to the Parish. Please find the account details below:

**Parish Account details:** Mother of Mercy Parish, Hendra, Northgate and Hamilton

BSB 064 786 A/C 006 556 001

***Please note "Confirm" and your family and/or child's name as a reference.***

**Please email the remittance advice to Bernadette [finance.hendra@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:finance.hendra@bne.catholic.net.au).**

We also recommend "*Flame of Faith*" on the Archdiocesan website (<http://flameoffaith.org.au/>) which is a wonderful introduction for you and your children to the Sacrament of Confirmation.

If you have any queries you are welcome to send the email to Sister Monika at [pmc.hendra@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:pmc.hendra@bne.catholic.net.au) and we will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to continuing your children's faith journey.

***Sr Monika on behalf of the Sacramental Team***