

2026 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (EUCCHARIST) SACRAMENTAL DATES

To enrol for a sacrament, your child needs to be a **baptised Catholic** and must have **at least one parent who is Catholic**. If you (the parent) is Catholic and your child has not yet been baptised or has been baptised in another Christian faith but not received into the Catholic Church and you would like them to be, you will need to contact the parish office (Ph: 4261 1315) to make an appointment to see Father Francis. To receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, candidates must have already received the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (FOR CHILDREN IN YEAR 3 OR OLDER, WHO ARE BAPTISED CATHOLICS AND HAVE RECEIVED THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE)	DATES
ENROLMENT WEEKENDS - Will be completed as part of RECONCILIATION preparation	
PARENT NIGHT Will be completed as part of the RECONCILIATION preparation <i>Parents will still need to complete the Enrolment Sheet for COMMUNION (will be made available prior to this date), and pay \$30. Form and money can be handed in at the Parish office or at St John's School.</i>	*Enrolment sheet and \$30 payment to be completed by Thursday 18 September
COMMITMENT WEEKEND At the Saturday 5pm or Sunday 9:30am Mass, parents will be asked to stand and read out a commitment to prepare their child for this sacrament. Parents will collect the child's Lesson Booklet. Candidates and their parents/carers must attend.	Saturday/Sunday 15-16 August
THE PROGRAMME This First Holy Communion programme runs for 8 weekends beginning with the enrolment weekends. Candidates and their parents/carers are asked to be at Mass every weekend during this time. If you need to be at Mass at a different parish on any of these weekends, please write the name of the parish and get the priest to sign at the back of your book. At the end of mass on the weekends listed, the candidate presents their booklet with the lesson/s completed to one of the parishioners/teachers at the back side door of the church where the completed lessons will be stamped/signed. If you are unable to be at church on a particular weekend, then you will need to contact the parish office to make other arrangements. If you have any questions regarding the content of the lessons, please contact: Shirley Parker (Parish Sacramental Team) - shirleyparker@hotmail.com OR Kylie Stephens (St John's School Religious Education Coordinator) - StephensK02@dow.catholic.edu.au	Lesson booklets need to be stamped on the following weekends: Saturday/Sunday 22-23 August 29-30 August 5-6 September 12-13 September
RECONCILIATION It is necessary that each candidate receives the sacrament of Reconciliation in the days/weeks before receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. Students from St John's Parish School will have the opportunity to receive Reconciliation at school in the weeks leading up to Communion. However, if a child is away from school on this day, they will need to receive Reconciliation on Friday 7th November, along with the children from other schools.	Friday 11 September 5pm
WORKSHOP DAY Held at St John's Parish School. Mufti clothes may be worn (please ensure enclosing footwear is worn)	Thursday 10 September 9:00am - 12:30pm (St John's students - normal hours)
AFTER SCHOOL LESSONS (for state school children only) Held in the Parish Meeting Room (Parish Office Building)	Wednesday's 19 August 4-5pm Wednesday's 26 August 4-5pm
PRACTISES FOR THE CEREMONIES (For ALL First Holy Communion candidates) St John's Parish Church Children must attend both practices.	For 13 November Ceremony: Wednesday's 4-5pm 2 September 9 September For 14 November Ceremony: Wednesday's 4-5pm 3 September 10 September
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION St John's Parish Church Children will meet in the St John's Library half an hour before the ceremony commences. Please note – Depending on numbers, there may be only 1 ceremony. If there are 2 ceremonies we will try to allow preferences for dates, however the ceremonies need to be similar in number. You will be given a chance at a later date to give your preference, once enrolments have taken place.	Thursday 17 September 6pm Friday 18 September 6pm