



**St John's Catholic Primary School
Dapto**

Phone: (02) 4261 4611

Email: info@sjdow.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.sjddow.catholic.edu.au



**St John the Evangelist Catholic Parish
Dapto**

Phone: (02) 4261 1315

Email: dapto@dow.org.au

Website: www.dapto.dow.org.au

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find attached the **St John's Parish Sacramental Dates for 2026** - Sacraments of Penance (Reconciliation), Eucharist (First Communion) and Confirmation.

It is very important that parents and carers are very aware of the dates and expectations for each sacramental programme. It is part of your responsibility in preparing your child for a sacrament that priority is given to this. Please understand it will be very difficult to make changes once enrolment dates have passed.

Children must be in Year 3 or above (and have been baptised) to make the **Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation)** and the **Sacrament of First Holy Communion (Eucharist)**.

Children must be in Year 6 or above (and have made their First Communion) to make the **Sacrament of Confirmation**.

Please note, children must have the support of **both** parents in order to enrol for a sacrament.

We look forward to assisting you in this important journey with your child. Please contact Fr Francis, Ms Stephens or the Parish Office if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Father Francis Tran
St John's Dapto Parish Priest
dapto@dow.org.au

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Ms Kylie Stephens
St John's School Religious Education Coordinator
StephensK02@dow.catholic.edu.au

2026 RECONCILIATION (FIRST PENANCE) 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.

Attendance at the Parent Night for all Sacraments is a compulsory requirement when enrolling your child for a sacrament. If you are unable to make this night, you will need to contact the parish office (well before the date) so that we can make other arrangements. Only one parent needs to attend the information evening.

RECONCILIATION/FIRST PENANCE (FOR CHILDREN IN YEAR 3 OR OLDER, WHO ARE BAPTISED CATHOLICS)	DATES
ENROLMENT WEEKENDS After the 5pm Mass on Saturday night or at any of the Sunday Masses, on either of the weekends indicated, parents will collect an Enrolment Sheet and record their child's name on the sheets at the back of the church. This needs to be done prior to the Parent Night.	Saturday/Sunday 7-8 February 14-15 February
PARENT NIGHT This night is to inform parents about the practicalities of the sacrament and reinforce the importance of adequate preparations for the sacrament. <i>On this night, parents bring back Enrolment Sheet, pay \$30 and present Baptismal Certificate (only if candidate was baptised in another parish) - only one parent is required to attend this evening.</i>	Thursday 19 February 6pm in the Church
COMMITMENT WEEKEND At the Saturday 5pm, Sunday 9:30am or Sunday 6pm 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 21-22 February
THE PROGRAMME This programme runs for 8 weeks beginning with the enrolment weekends. The children and their parent/s are asked to be at mass every weekend during this time. At the end of mass on the weekends listed, the child/parent presents the booklet with the lesson/s completed to one of the parishioners/teachers at the back door to the side of the church where the completed lessons will be stamped/signed. 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 28 February-1 March 7-8 March 14-15 March 21-22 March
AFTER SCHOOL LESSON (for state school children only) Held in the Parish Meeting Room (Parish Office Building) Candidates are to attend both sessions	Wednesday 4 March 4:00pm – 5:00pm Wednesday 11 March 4:00pm – 5:00pm
WORKSHOP DAY Held at St John's Parish School. Mufti clothes may be worn (please ensure enclosing footwear is worn)	Thursday 19 March 9:00am - 12:30pm (St John's students - normal school hours)
RECONCILIATION/FIRST PENANCE St John's Parish Church	Thursday 26 March 5pm Friday 27 March 5pm

2026 CONFIRMATION SACRAMENTAL DATES

To enrol for a sacrament, children need 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 wish 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 Confirmation, candidates must have already received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion (Eucharist).

Attendance at the Parent Night for all Sacraments is a compulsory requirement when enrolling your child for a sacrament. If you are unable to make this night, you will need to contact the parish office (well before the date) so that we can make other arrangements.

CONFIRMATION (FOR CHILDREN IN YEAR 6 OR OLDER, WHO ARE BAPTISED CATHOLIC AND HAVE RECEIVED THE SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST)	DATES
ENROLMENT WEEKENDS After the 5pm Mass on Saturday night or at any of the Sunday Masses, on either of the weekends indicated, parents will collect an Enrolment Sheet and record their child's name on the sheets at the back of the church. This needs to be done prior to the Parent Night.	Saturday/Sunday 18-19 April (holidays) 25-26 April
PARENT NIGHT This night is to inform parents about the practicalities of the sacrament and reinforce the importance of adequate preparations for the sacrament. Confirmation workbooks will be given out on this night. <i>On this night, parents bring back completed Enrolment Form, pay \$30 and present Baptismal Certificate (only if candidate was baptised in another parish and has not received any other sacraments at St John's).</i>	Thursday 30 April 6pm
COMMITMENT WEEKEND At the Saturday 5pm or Sunday 9:30 am 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 2-3 May
THE PROGRAMME This Confirmation programme runs for 8 weekends beginning with enrolment. Candidates and their parents/carers must come to Mass every weekend during this time. 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 9-10 May 16-17 May 23-24 May 30-31 May
RECONCILIATION It is necessary that all candidates receive the sacrament of Reconciliation in the days/weeks before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. St John's Parish School Students will have the opportunity to receive Reconciliation at school just before Confirmation. However, if a child is away from school on this day, they will need to receive Reconciliation on Friday 30th May, along with the children from other schools.	Friday 29 May 5pm
WORKSHOP DAY Held at St John's School. Completed Saints projects need to be brought to this day – more information will be given regarding this at the Parent Information Night. Year 6 children from other schools will also attend the Workshop Day. High School children do not need to attend the Workshop Day. Mufti clothes may be worn (please ensure enclosing footwear is worn)	Thursday 28 May 9:00am - 12:30pm (St John's students - normal school hours)
AFTER SCHOOL LESSONS (for state school children only) Held in the Parish Office.	Wednesday 6 May Wednesday 13 May 4pm – 5pm
PRACTISES FOR THE CEREMONIES (For ALL Confirmation candidates) St John's Parish Church. Children must attend both practices.	For 3 June Ceremony: Wednesday 20 May Wednesday 27 May 4pm – 5pm For 4 June Ceremony: Thursday 21 May Thursday 28 May 4pm – 5pm
CONFIRMATION - St John's Parish Church. Children will meet in the St John's Library at 6:30pm Please note – Depending on numbers there may be only one 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.	Wednesday 3 June 7:00pm Thursday 4 June 7:00pm

2026 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (EUCHARIST) 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