St John's Catholic Primary School Dapto

Phone: (02) 4261 4611

Email: info@sjddow.catholic.edu.au
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St John the Evangelist Catholic Parish Dapto

Phone: (02) 4261 1315

Email: dapto@dow.org.au
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Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find attached the **St John's Parish Sacramental Dates for 2023** - 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 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 or Ms Maguire if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

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

Ms Renee Maguire
St John's School Religious Education Coordinator
maguirer02@dow.catholic.edu.au

2023 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 CATHOLICS)	DATES
ENROLMENT WEEKENDS After the 5pm Mass on Saturday night or at any of the Sunday Masses, on any 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.	**Saturday/Sunday** **1st and 2nd April** **22nd and 23rd 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. *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).*	**Thursday 27th 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** **29th & 30th April**
THE PROGRAMME This Confirmation programme runs for 8 weekends beginning with enrolment. Candidates and their parents/carers are encouraged to 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: Shirlie Druery (Catechist) **shirliedruery@bigpond.com** Ernestina Leonard (Catechist) **leonards01@dow.catholic.edu.au** **OR** Renee Maguire (St John's School Religious Education Coordinator) maguirer02@dow.catholic.edu.au	**Lesson booklets need to be stamped on the following weekends:** **Saturday/Sunday** **6th and 7th May** **13th and 14th May** **20th and 21st May** **27th and 28th 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 26th May, along with the children from other schools.	**Friday 26th May** **5pm**
WORKSHOP DAY Held in St John's Parish Hall or Year 6 Classrooms. Completed Saints projects need to be brought to this day – more information will be given regarding this at the Parent Information Night. Non-St John's students will also attend and participate in this day.	**Thursday 25th May** **8:30am – 2:40pm**
AFTER SCHOOL LESSONS (for state school children only) Held in the Church.	**Wednesday 3rd May** **Wednesday 10th May** **4pm – 5pm**
PRACTISES FOR THE CEREMONIES (**For ALL Confirmation candidates**) St John's Parish Church. Children must attend **both** practices.	**Wednesday 17th May** **Wednesday 24th 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 date -1st June. If there are 2 dates 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.**	**Thursday 1st June** **Friday 2nd June** **7:00pm (TBC)**