



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

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SAINT JOHN
the Evangelist
CATHOLIC PARISH, DAPTO

**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 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 RECONCILIATION (FIRST PENANCE) & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (EUCHARIST) SACRAMENTAL DATES

To enrol for the sacraments, 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. **This year we are completing the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion together. Candidates will complete the preparation booklet for Reconciliation in the 3 weekends (beginning 2nd/3rd Sept.) and First Holy Communion in the 3 weekends (beginning 14th/15th Oct.). The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held as part of the Workshop Day on the 26th of October.**

Attendance at the Parent Night on the 24th of August is a compulsory requirement when enrolling your child for the sacraments. 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.

RECONCILIATION (FIRST PENANCE) FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (EUCHARIST) (FOR CHILDREN IN YEAR 3 OR OLDER, WHO ARE BAPTISED CATHOLICS AND HAVE RECEIVED THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILE)	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 12th and 13th Aug. 19th and 20th Aug.
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 the Enrolment Sheet, pay \$30 and present Baptismal Certificate (only if the candidate was baptised in another parish and has not received any other sacraments at St John's).</i>	Thursday 24th Aug. 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 26th August. and 27th August.
THE PROGRAMME This Reconciliation/First Holy Communion programme begins with the enrolment weekends on the 19th/20th or 26th/27th August. 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: Shirlye Druery (Catechist) shirlyedruery@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 2nd Sept. and 3rd Sept. 9th and 10th Sept. 16th and 17th Sept. 14th and 15th Oct. 21st and 22nd Oct. 28th and 29th Oct.
WORKSHOP DAY Held at St John's Parish School. This day will include a practice for the Sacrament.	Thursday 26th Oct. 8:30am – 2:40pm
AFTER SCHOOL LESSONS (for state school children only) Held in the Parish Meeting Room (Parish Office Building)	Wednesday's 4-5pm 13th Sept. 20th Sept. 11th Oct. 18th Oct.
PRACTISES FOR THE CEREMONIES (For ALL First Holy Communion candidates) St John's Parish Church Children must attend both practices.	Wednesday's 4-5pm 25th Oct. 1st Nov. TBC
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 one date - 2nd Nov. 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	Thurs .2nd Nov Fri. 3rd Nov. 6pm TBC

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. <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 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: Shirlye 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)