

St Thomas the Apostle

Catholic Parish, Clyde North

Phone: 03 5998 0947
0407 085 532

E-mail: denisobryan13@gmail.com
Parish Office: 50 Heather Grove, Cranbourne East.
PO Box 6089, Clyde, Vic, 3978



25th March 2021

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Dear Parents,

Towards the end of June this year the bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sale, Bishop Greg Bennet, will visit our parish to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation. This an exciting occasion for our parish and families. I am writing to you with important information.

The preparation of our children to participate in the sacramental life of the Catholic Church is amongst the greatest of responsibilities that parents accept at the Baptism of their child.

The most critical preparation is the lived witness of Catholic faith that children experience in their families, praying together with their parents, participating regularly in Sunday Mass, encountering Jesus through the Word of God at home, and being formed as disciples of Jesus able to participate in his mission in the Church.

Nothing and no one can replace this crucial role of parents in their families as the first and most important educators of their children. I, and the leadership of St Thomas the Apostle Parish, wish to encourage you in this most important responsibility and we thank you for your faithful efforts in accepting and fulfilling this responsibility.

Preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation is a most important process and **none of the steps can be missed**. The preparation for this sacrament is offered every year in our parish and if you feel that you cannot participate fully in the preparation this year, we advise that you defer the preparation for your child until next year or a coming year.

The steps for this year are as follows:

Parent Formation Meeting: Participation in one of the meetings is obligatory. The meetings will be held at St Thomas the Apostle Primary School on Tuesday 27th April at 7.00pm and on Tuesday 4th May at 7.00pm.

Enrolment at Saturday Night or Sunday Parish Mass: This will occur on the weekend following the Parent Formation Meeting. At these Masses the Enrolment Forms must be returned. Enrolment forms will not be accepted any later than Tuesday 11th May.

Parent & Child Worksheets to be completed at home and returned to the Parish:

This is a way in which the parish supports parents in their role as the most important educators for their children. If these worksheets are not completed and returned to the parish it will be taken as an indication that you have decided not to continue with

preparation for Confirmation this year. Worksheets should be returned weekly, preferably at Mass. (Please use Try-Booking to register for Parish Masses.)

Parent and Child Workshop: These Workshops will take place at St Thomas the Apostle School on Tuesday 8th June and Thursday 10th June at 7.00pm. Participation in one of the workshops is required.

Catechist Meetings for those children who are not students at a catholic school: This will consist of four after school sessions organised through the Parish Office. Date will be given after the workshop.

Retreat Day for Confirmation Candidates: The date for this is To Be Confirmed. It will be during the school day on either Tuesday 15th June or Wednesday 16th June.

Sacrament of Confirmation: The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred by Bishop Greg Bennet. The number of celebrations required will depend on the number of candidates. At this time the dates are Saturday 26th June at 11.00am and 2.00pm, and if necessary, a third celebration will take place on Thursday 24th June at 7.30pm.

There are a number of other requirements to consider. For children to participate in the Sacrament of Confirmation they must be able to demonstrate that they have already been Baptised and have made their First Holy Communion in the Roman Catholic Church.

Children who belong to Eastern Catholic Churches, i.e. Syro Malabar, Chaldean, Maronite, are required to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in their own Eastern Catholic Church.

There is a lot of information in this letter and an opportunity to find out more about the process of preparation of your children for the Sacrament of Confirmation will occur at the Parent Formation Meetings.

One critical message: If something comes up that makes your participation impossible or difficult at any stage, please immediately contact Mr Andrew McDermott at St Thomas the Apostle School or Fiona Goh at the Parish Office. Failure to do so could mean that your child is unable to continue towards being Confirmed this year.

St Thomas the Apostle Parish is keenly looking forward to the visit of Bishop Bennet to confer of the Sacrament of Confirmation, and with the commitment firstly of our families and the assistance of St Thomas the Apostle Primary School, parish catechists and parish staff, our candidates will be well prepared. I look forward to seeing at the Parent Formation Meeting.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denis O'Bryan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a heart symbol between the first and last names.

Fr Denis O'Bryan (Parish Priest)