

ST MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC PARISH
SACRAMENT CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN 2026
PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET 2026

INTRODUCTION

Each year, our parish runs classes to prepare children who do not attend Catholic schools to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and Confirmation. These classes assist and support parents to fulfil their responsibility of passing on the Catholic faith to their children.

At the Baptism of their child, parents accepted the solemn responsibility for raising their child in the Catholic faith. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (see nos. 2221-2226) explains:

The role of parents in education of their children is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute. The right and duty of parents to educate their children are primordial and inalienable. Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. The parish is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents.

Our sacrament classes presume that participating families attend Sunday Mass each week and strive to live the Catholic faith in daily life.

COURSE OUTLINE

In 2026, these classes will be held from **4.00pm - 5.00pm** on **Tuesday** afternoons. Classes will run throughout Terms 1 and 2. Three classes - one for each of the sacraments - are held concurrently. Children meet at 4.00pm in St Mary MacKillop Church, before accompanying their catechist to one of the school classrooms for their lesson. Children will then return to the Church at 5.00pm for parents to pick them up.

ATTENDANCE

To receive the sacraments, your child must be adequately prepared. Children may not miss more than two classes of any given course, unless a medical certificate is provided to the Parish Office. If a child misses more than two classes, their reception of the sacrament will be deferred. The child will be required to re-enrol in the same sacrament course the following year.

DISCIPLINE

Good behaviour and engagement with the course is expected of all children. If a child is persistently disruptive, the parents will be advised and the child's enrolment in the course may be reviewed or terminated.

CATECHISTS

Each class will be led by a trained teacher/catechist. Our catechists volunteer their time to teach the sacrament courses. Usually, our catechists are also supported by seminarians from Corpus Christi College, who participate in delivering the classes as part of their formation for the priesthood. The parish ensures that all catechists hold valid Working With Children Checks and comply with the parish's child-safety policies. If you have any concerns about our catechists, you are welcome to speak to the course coordinator or to our parish priest, Monsignor Charles Portelli.

STATIONARY

Children are required to bring their own stationary to class. Children should bring pens or pencils for writing, coloured textas or pencils, scissors and glue. A workbook will be provided to each child.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

Parents of children participating in our sacrament course are required to attend an **Information Evening** at **4pm on Tuesday, 3rd March 2026**. The Information Evening is an important opportunity for parents to meet the catechists of their children, to receive an overview of the course, including guidance on how to support their children's preparation at home, and practical details about the sacraments themselves. At least one parent of each child must attend the Information Evening.

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR*

Confirmation candidates need to nominate a sponsor before their Confirmation. According to the Code of Canon Law (can. 892), the Confirmation sponsor's role "is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament." The sponsor must be a fully-initiated Catholic of the Roman Rite, namely, someone who has received Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. They must be 16 years or older. The sponsor must also be someone who "leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on" (can. 874). The sponsor will be required to attend both the Confirmation rehearsal and the Confirmation Mass.

CONFIRMATION SAINT*

Confirmation candidates are required to select a saint, whose name they will receive at Confirmation. The saint must be a canonised (publicly recognised) saint of the Catholic Church. The catechists will help the children select a saint's name. Brief biographies of saints are provided as the classes progress.

ENROLMENT

Parents must enrol their children for these classes through the Parish Office using the forms below. Your child's enrolment form and payment must be submitted to **the Parish Office by 5pm on Friday, 20th February 2026**. A copy of your child's Baptism Certificate must be included with your child's enrolment form. Children may only prepare for one sacrament each year and must receive them in order:

Reconciliation: your child must be in **Grade 3 or above**;

Holy Communion: your child must be in **Grade 4 or above**;

Confirmation: your child must be in **Grade 6 or above** and have made both their First Reconciliation and First Communion.

FEE

Please note that there is an enrolment fee of \$120 per child associated with the sacrament preparation course. If you have multiple children enrolled in one year, the first child's enrolment fee is \$120 while additional children are \$100. The enrolment fee covers the workbook provided to your child in their first class, as well as other costs associated with the delivery of the course. If your child loses their workbook, a replacement can be provided at the cost of \$20.

*Applicable for Sacrament of Confirmation only.

ST MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC PARISH
SACRAMENT CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN 2025

PREPARATION COURSE KEY DATES 2026

Time	Date	Session Content
4:00PM	Tuesday, 24 Feb 2026	Lesson 1
4:00PM	Tuesday, 3 Mar 2026	Lesson 2
4:00PM		Parent Information Evening
4:00PM	Tuesday, 10 Mar 2026	Lesson 3
4:00PM	Tuesday, 17 Mar 2026	Lesson 4
4:00PM	Tuesday, 24 Mar 2026	Lesson 5
4:00PM	Tuesday, 31 Mar 2026	Lesson 6
School Holiday - 7 and 14 Apr		
4:00PM	Tuesday, 21 Apr 2026	Lesson 7
4:00PM	Tuesday, 28 Apr 2026	Lesson 8
4:00PM	Tuesday, 5 May 2026	Lesson 9
4:00PM	Tuesday, 12 May 2026	Lesson 10
4:00PM	Tuesday, 19 May 2026	Lesson 11
4:00PM	Tuesday, 26 May 2026	Lesson 12
4:00PM	Tuesday, 2 Jun 2026	Lesson 13
4:00PM	Tuesday, 9 Jun 2026	Retreat for all students
4:00PM	Tuesday, 16 Jun 2026	First Reconciliation & Reconciliation for all students
6:00PM	Friday, 19 Jun 2026	Rehearsal for Confirmation with Sponsor
TBC	Saturday, 20 Jun 2026	Confirmation with St Mary's School
TBC	not confirmed	Holy Communion

ST MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC PARISH
ENROLMENT FORM 2026

Please select the sacramental class:

☐ FIRST RECONCILIATION

☐ FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

☐ SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

CHILD'S FULL NAME:		CHILD'S DATE OF BIRTH:	
CHILD'S CHURCH & PLACE OF BAPTISM: (Copy of Baptism certificate must be submitted with this form)		CHILD'S DATE OF BAPTISM:	
CHILD'S SCHOOL:		CHILD'S YEAR LEVEL (Minimum Grade 6):	
MOTHER'S FULL NAME:		MOTHER'S EMAIL:	MOTHER'S MOBILE:
FATHER'S FULL NAME:		FATHER'S EMAIL:	FATHER'S MOBILE:
CHILD'S ADDRESS:			
EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME:		EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE NO.:	
DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE ANY MEDICAL CONDITIONS THAT WE NEED TO BE AWARE OF?			

Enrolment in the Sacrament Preparation Course includes a fee of \$120.00. Additional children are \$100. The enrolment form and payment must be submitted to the Parish Office no later than 5pm on Friday, 7th February 2025. Payment can be made by Credit Card, Direct Debit or Cash.

1. CREDIT CARD REQUEST

Cardholder's Name: _____	Card Type: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa
Card No: _____	Expiry Date: _____ / _____
Amount: _____	

2. DIRECT DEBIT REQUEST

I/We request and authorise St Mary of the Assumption Parish to arrange, through its own financial institution, to debit funds from the nominated account.

Bank Name: _____	Branch: _____
BSB: _____	Account Number: _____
Name of Account Holder/s: _____	Amount: _____

I, the undersigned, I have read and understood the above 'Information Sheet' and agree to support the program and teachers in every way possible. I accept that if my child misses more than two classes of the sacrament preparation course, they will be required to re-enrol in the course the following year.

PARENT(S) NAME: _____

PARENT(S) SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____