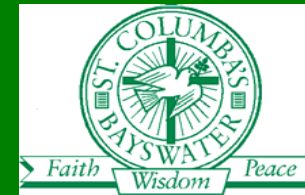


EUCHARIST  
SACRAMENTAL  
PROGRAM

2011



ST COLUMBA'S PARISH  
BAYSWATER

# FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2011

Please complete the following information and return it to your child's teacher NO LATER than Thursday 2nd June 2011.

Child's Name: ..... Class:.....

## FIRST EUCHARIST RETREAT DAY

I am able/unable to assist with (please circle):

\* MORNING TEA (10.15 AM – 11.15 AM)      \* LUNCH (12.15 – 1.30)

SIGNED: .....

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATION

My child will be accompanied by \_\_\_\_\_ **immediate family** members at the First Holy Communion celebration on 26th June 2011

SIGNED: .....

✂.....

**ENROLMENT MASS CARD** Please bring to the Enrolment Mass on Sat 28th May at 6.00pm.

*Father,*

*You have given us so many gifts.*

*As our children prepare*

*to receive Jesus*

*in Holy Communion*

*Help them to celebrate*

*your love for us*

*by doing what Jesus asked*

*us to do in memory of Him.*

*Make them always grateful for the*

*wonderful gift of Jesus Christ.*

*Amen*



**St Columba's Parish Bayswater**



We,.....

present our child, .....

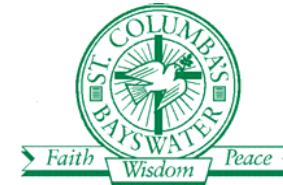
as a Candidate for the Sacrament of First Eucharist.

We ask the Holy Spirit to continue to guide us in fulfilling our privilege of initiating our child into the Church.

Signed .....

## How to help Your Child Prepare to Receive the Eucharist

- Discuss with the children that Jesus is truly present with them in a special way when they receive him in Holy Communion.
- Remind the children to talk to Jesus and thank him for coming to them in Holy Communion.
- Encourage children to try to take Jesus' message of love to their family, friends and others.
- Ensure that the children have clean hands, out of respect for Jesus.
- Practise with children to bow just before receiving communion.
- Practise with the children the way to hold out their hands reverently.
- Practise with the children saying 'Amen' clearly to the words 'The Body of Christ'.
- Take an interest in relevant homework activities.
- As a family, try to eat one meal a day together – make the experience one of dialogue and sharing.
- Encourage the saying of grace both before and after meals.
- Share with your child your experiences of your First Communion.
- As a family, regularly celebrate the Eucharist.



### INTRODUCTION

Dear Parents of First Holy Communicants

In 2011, students from St Columba's Parish will be receiving the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time on Sunday 26th June at 11.00am. We wish the day to be a special and memorable one, by placing the emphasis on the most important aspect, the reception of Christ in the Eucharist, so that in the years to come the children will be able to reflect on the true meaning of the day.

Enclosed in this booklet is all the relevant and necessary information regarding First Holy Communion 2011.

Please read the details carefully and do not hesitate to contact us regarding any concerns or queries you may have.

Yours faithfully

Megan Dwyer

Assistant Principal Religious Education

Julie Kelly

Catechist Coordinator

## *Preparing for the Sacrament of First Eucharist*

St Columba's offers an approach to sacrament preparation that is family focused, parish based and supported by the school and parish Religious Education Programs. Families, the parish and school work in partnership for the preparation and celebration of the sacraments of Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation.

This approach is based on the understanding that parents, with the support of the school and parish, have the responsibility for the passing on of Christian faith, values, traditions, beliefs and stories to their children.

Catholic schools, by the nature of their mission and mandate, have a direct responsibility to support the family and the parish in the preparation of children to receive the sacraments.

Both the school and the Parish Religious Education Program achieve this by providing knowledge and understanding through the Religious Education Program and by providing an environment which witnesses to, and teaches, gospel values.

### **Family Focused**

*The family is the domestic Church, the Church at home, the place where children receive formation for Christian living.*

*As parents come to understand how their 'domestic church' shares in the life of the whole church, so their children will come to feel 'a sense of the church' and will want to work for it.*

*(Christifideles Laici, The Vocation and Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church, 62)*

## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATION**

**DATE:** Sunday 26th June 2011  
**TIME:** 11.00 am  
**PLACE:** St Columba's Church, BAYSWATER  
**DRESS:** Neat and tidy in semi-formal attire

### **PROCEDURE ON THE DAY**

- Communicants will assemble outside the church prior to the commencement of mass in readiness for the Entrance Procession.
- Communicants will lead the Entrance Procession in two lines down the centre aisle.
- Communicants will be allocated a pew each which will seat their immediate family. Other family members are asked to sit elsewhere in the church. Communicants are to sit on the aisle side of the pew. Please complete the reply slip at the end of this booklet to assist us in our planning.
- At communion, the communicants, together with their family, will be ushered to the altar, pew by pew.
- The communicants and their immediate families will be receiving Communion from the priest in front of the altar.
- If you are a non-Catholic, or not able to receive Communion, you are invited to come forward and receive a special blessing by crossing your arms over your chest as you approach the altar.
- An official photographer has been booked and will be taking photos before and during Mass. We ask that you respect the solemnity of the occasion and refrain from taking photos in the Church. More information will be given at the Retreat Day regarding the procedure for photos prior to Mass.
- At the conclusion of the celebration the communicants will process into the Hall for the cutting of the Holy Communion cake.

## FIRST EUCHARIST RETREAT DAY

As part of their preparation for First Holy Communion students will be participating in a 'First Eucharist Retreat Day'. The students will spend the day in the Parish Hall and will have morning tea and lunch there. They will also have the opportunity to go to Reconciliation in the afternoon.

Please take note of the following details:

**FACILITATOR:** Sandra Dillon

**WHO:** ALL Year 4 students & catechist class students

**DATE:** Thursday 16th June 2011

**TIME:** 9.00am – 3.00pm (St. Columba's students will be brought to the hall with their teacher & catechist class students may be left after 8.30am)

**DRESS:** Free Dress

**FOOD:** Please bring a small plate of food to share to share for lunch. Morning tea & drinks (cordial & water) will be supplied.

*IMPORTANT: Please DO NOT send any food that contains nuts or traces of nuts and advise your child's teacher if your child has any food allergies.*

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS:** Pencil case with textas, pencils, scissors & glue.

**SUPERVISION:** The children will be supervised by class teachers and catechists. Normal school rules will apply.

The students will spend the day in the Parish Hall and will have morning tea and lunch there. If you are able to assist with the preparation and cleaning up of morning tea and/or lunch please complete the slip at the end of this booklet and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

We trust that the children will gain a lot from this experience and look forward to sharing this day with them.

Children's Religious Education begins at home and parents are educating their children in all sorts of ways long before they come to school. The Faith experience children have from the time they are born forms the foundation and content of their Religious Education program.

Parents educate and form their children's faith by:

- their daily example of Christian living
- sharing of the faith through stories
- praying together as a family e.g. prayer before meals, bedtime prayer
- giving their children the opportunity to experience belonging to a faith community, especially through Sunday mass

### **What is expected of parents to assist their child with the preparation for the sacrament of Eucharist?**

- Attend the Enrolment Mass
- Attend sacrament workshops
- Return all relevant paper work by due dates



## Important Dates To Note

Please take careful note of the following dates:

### SATURDAY 28th May at 6.00pm

Enrolment Mass for all children receiving the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time in 2011 will be held in the St Columba's Parish Church

### TUESDAY 14th June at 7.00—8.30pm

Interactive Family Workshop for First Holy Communicants and their parents in the St Columba's Parish Hall

### THURSDAY 16th June at 9.00am—3.00pm

First Eucharist Retreat Day for all First Holy Communicants

### SUNDAY 26th June at 11.00am

First Holy Communion celebration at the St Columba's Parish Church

### SATURDAY 2nd July & SUNDAY 3rd July

First Holy Communicants are invited to attend a weekend mass in their special clothes and be presented to the community and receive their certificate

Important details regarding each of these events are included in this booklet

Please take time to read everything carefully and don't hesitate to contact us regarding any queries or concerns you may have. We look forward to celebrating this special sacrament with your child and family and hope to make the occasion a memorable one.

## ENROLMENT MASS

Participation in the Enrolment Mass is to indicate a willingness on behalf of the candidate, and their parents, to participate, to the best of their ability, in the preparation activities. It is essential that all First Holy Communicants and their families attend this mass.

<u>Date:</u>	Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2011
<u>Time:</u>	6.00pm (Youth Mass)
<u>Venue:</u>	St Columba's Church
<u>Who should attend?</u>	First Holy Communicants, parents and siblings

***Please bring the signed Sacrament Commitment Enrolment card, found at the back of this booklet, to the Mass.***



## INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

This year, as part of the preparation for First Holy Communion, we are hosting an activity-based interactive Eucharist Workshop for the students receiving the sacrament and their parents. It is essential that all families attend.

Please note that this workshop is for the First Holy Communicants and their parents **only** and we do not have crèche facilities.

The workshop details are as follows:

<u>Date:</u>	Tuesday 14th June 2011
<u>Time:</u>	7.00 – 8.30 pm
<u>Venue:</u>	St Columba's Church Hall
<u>Who should attend?</u>	Parents <b>and</b> students receiving First Holy Communion