

Initiation into the Catholic Church

The Rite of Christian Initiation is celebrated with the reception of three Sacraments. These are:

Baptism

Confirmation

First Holy Communion

The Second Vatican Council reminded the church that these three Sacraments were intrinsically connected.

Confirmation

The Bishop will celebrate on
Tue 28th March 2023



Reconciliation

Tue/Wed
6th 7th June 2023



First Holy Communion

Saturday,
2nd September 2023



2023 Sacramental Programme

Confirmation: Term 1 Year 3.

Wednesday 1st March: Parent meeting - 6.30pm
at St Finbarr's Church.

Masses:

Sat./Sun. 11-12 March: Enrolment + Symbol.

Sat./Sun. 18-19 March: Present Lord's Prayer.

Sat. 25 March: Blessing + Practice.

Tuesday 28th March: Sacrament of Confirmation.
6pm at St Finbarr's Church.

First Reconciliation: Term 2 Year 4.

Wednesday 3 May: COMBINED MEETING for First
Reconciliation and First Holy Communion:
6.30pm at St Finbarr's Church.

Tue/Wed: 6 - 7th June: First Reconciliation 6 -7pm
at St Finbarr's Church.

First Holy Communion: Term 3 Year 4.

Masses:

Sat/Sun. 5 - 6 Aug.: Enrolment Ceremony.

Sat/Sun. 12 - 13 Aug.: Poster Presentation.

Sat/Sun. 19 - 20 Aug.: Candles around Altar.

Sat. 26 Aug.: Blessing + Practice after Mass
at St Finbarr's Church.

Saturday 2nd Sept.: First Holy Communion
6pm at St Finbarr's Church.

Holy Spirit Parish Bangalow/Byron Bay.

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Holy Spirit Parish,
Bangalow and
Byron Bay

Sacramental Programme 2023



*Jesus came that we
may have life and
have it to the full.*

John 10:10

Message from Fr. David Gilbey, Parish Priest.

Dear Parents,

The parish rejoices with you in the important spiritual events in the life of your child in the coming year. We are here to assist you and your child's teacher, in preparing and celebrating the Sacraments of Confirmation, First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Your Family is a small Christian community often described as 'the domestic church'. From the early Christian communities, we can identify **five essential characteristics** which were common to the families of the early church, and which would strengthen our present-day families:



The Sacraments are moments that help and strengthen us on our spiritual pilgrimage through life.

1. Prayer was a regular part of the family routine.
 2. Family members talked quite freely about spiritual matters.
 3. There was a structure in the family which brought them together and kept them together.
 4. Families would reach out together with genuine Christian love.
 5. Families would gather in solidarity with other Christian families to celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays (the Lord's day).
- The Gospel hasn't changed. These five points are as important today as they were 2000 years ago when the Church was developing its foundational values.

Bishop's Changes to Sacramental Policy: Lismore Diocese from 2021

The Diocesan policy for the reception of the Sacraments follows -

Confirmation: From 2021 for Year 3. Confirmation begins the Sacramental program that completes the Rite of Initiation that began at Baptism. The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation depends upon the Bishop's Calendar.

First Reconciliation: From 2021 for Year 4, will be celebrated in the *Season of Lent*, Term 1. Lent is an appropriate time to celebrate this sacrament as it is the season when we are reflecting on our lives in preparation to celebrate the great central Christian event of *Easter*.

First Holy Communion: From 2021 for Year 4, will be celebrated for children who have made their First Reconciliation. This Sacrament is received through the great gift of Jesus in the celebration of *The Eucharist* - The Mass.

The Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion complete the Rite of Christian Initiation into the faith community. Those receiving these Sacraments begin their commitment to be actively involved in the life of the Christian faith. It is a time of rejoicing for the local Christian community as we celebrate who we are as a faith community.

PLEASE NOTE: Candidates from other Dioceses or parishes may have received their Sacraments at different times. Please contact the school where these exceptions occur for your children. *Fr David*

REGISTRATION FORM

Compulsory Parent Information Nights:
Confirmation: Wednesday 1st March 2023
First Reconciliation / Wednesday 3rd May 2023
First Holy Communion: " 3rd May 2023

Candidates Name

Father's full Name

Mother's full Maiden Name

Place and Date of Birth

Place and date of Catholic Baptism - (attach copy)

School

Class

Home Address

Phone

Signature

Date

Closing Dates for Registration:

Confirmation: Wed. 1st March 2023

Reconciliation: Wed. 3rd May 2023

First Holy Communion: Wed. 3rd May 2023

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