



Caloundra Catholic Parish

Sacramental Program

One very important means by which we encounter the Risen Lord is through the celebration of the Sacraments. In the Catechism we read 'The purpose of the sacraments is to sanctify, to build up the Body of Christ and, finally, to give worship to God. They not only presuppose faith but by words and objects they also nourish, strengthen and express it. That is why they are called 'sacraments of faith'. CC1132

So an important task of any community is the instruction and passing on of the sacraments especially to our young people. Such a task rests primarily with those who first sought initiation for their children, that is, the parents of those baptised. But they should be supported by others in the community particularly when it comes time to prepare young people to celebrate the sacraments. Our new Archbishop has made clear that he expects the usual celebrant for Confirmation to be a Bishop. This and already existing guidelines form the basis for preparation of children for the Sacraments in our Parish.

After reflection on past experience and using the guidelines provided the following practice will be used in the parish. The Sacraments of Confirmation and first Holy Communion, the last two sacraments of initiation, are celebrated within a short time of each other. Children are considered to be ready at 9 to 10 years of age, that is, Year Four at school. A time of preparation precedes the celebration of the Sacraments but the main purpose of such instruction is to ensure that children are familiar with the ritual and the basics of the Mass. This preparation places only minor importance on knowledge.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered before Confirmation. This sacrament can take place during a Second Rite, after a short time of preparation and by children who are 8 to 9 years of age, that is, Year Three at school.

Currently, the Sacrament of Confirmation is being offered to young people to prepare and celebrate. Later in the year we will commence the time of preparation for the Sacrament of Eucharist.

These are the basic principles upon which Sacramental preparation will occur in the parish. The dates for the Sacramental Program are published in our Parish Newsletter at various times through the year.

Once again I express my thanks to all who have very generously supported parents in preparing children for the Sacraments and I invite everyone to give prayerful support to parents and caregivers in this very important aspect in the life of our parish.

God bless,

Father Kevin Smith, PP