



## Our SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Dear Parents/Carers,

St Declan's Parish, Penshurst runs a parish-based sacramental program. The parents' involvement in the preparation of each of the sacraments of Communion, Confirmation and Reconciliation, allows them to walk together with their children on their spiritual journey. The positive feedback we have had from parents in the past has indicated that we should continue to follow this format.

Parents sometimes feel inadequate when it comes to teaching their children about their faith. It is important to remember, however, that children do not need to have an adult understanding of the sacraments. By attending the classes together, you have the opportunity to answer questions your children may ask, which may deepen your relationship with your child. Teachers and catechists will also reinforce the content of our sacramental program in the schools.

Some parents may be thinking; "The children are learning about their faith at school. Why do I now have to teach them myself?" In response to this question it is important to remember the statement from the Second Vatican Council, which says that parents are 'the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith'. It is a beautiful gift to be able to support your own children in their journey of faith.

An outline of all the Sacramental Program dates is set out on an accompanying page.

**Please include a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate (if NOT baptised at this parish) when enrolling your child for each Sacrament that is relevant to your child.** *Enrolment forms will be available on our website [www.stdeclanspenshurst.org](http://www.stdeclanspenshurst.org) or from the Parish Office, **five** weeks prior to each Information Evening.*

I look forward to meeting you at these gatherings and beginning our journey together. If there is anything that you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With every blessing,

Fr Chris Ryan MGL  
Parish Priest