

St. Declan's Parish

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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 (children in *year 3 or older*), Confirmation (children in *year 6 or older*) and Reconciliation (children in *year 2 or older*), 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.

There is an outline of all the Sacramental Program dates set out on the [2018 DATES](#) link (if you return to the Sacraments page).

Please include a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate (if NOT baptised at this parish) when you enrol for the Sacrament that is relevant to your child. *Enrolment forms will be available on our website www.stdeclanspenshurst.org or 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 or Lynne Taylor, our Sacramental Coordinator.

With every blessing,

Fr Chris Ryan MGL
Parish Priest

For enquiries, please contact:
[Lynne Taylor](#) : phone *9580 1310* or email scrmnt07@tpg.com.au