



Sacrament of Confirmation in the Attadale Parish 2018

Dear Parents and children,

I would like to inform the Catholic children in Attadale and their parents of the dates of the parish events which lead up to the reception of the Sacrament of confirmation by in 2018. If you are not in the Attadale Parish please make contact with your parish priest to discuss the parish programme.

Parents play a key role in passing on faith. Pope Francis said recently, *'Your children's "little eyes" gradually memorize and interpret with the heart that faith is one of the greatest inheritances you have received from your parents and ancestors.... And if you hand on the faith and live it well, that is where the transmission happens.'* Parents are supported in this by the Catholic School Religious Education Programme or the Parish Religious Education Programme (PREP). Parents will need to ensure that their children are attending one or the other.

The sacrament of confirmation will be celebrated in the parish on Saturday, 19 May at 6pm and on Sunday, 20 May at 11am. I shall be the celebrant for confirmation this year.

There will be a combined commitment Mass and enrolment for the sacrament at the parish church on Saturday 24 February at 6pm. The commitment ceremony will take place during Mass and after Mass the enrolment for the sacrament will be completed. Please bring a copy of the child's baptismal certificate to the enrolment. This certificate will need to be received before the child can be confirmed. You are asked to pay the \$40 fee when enrolling. At the enrolment you will also indicate which parent-child workshop you will attend.

On Wednesday, 14 March at 5pm and 6.30pm a parent-child workshop will be held in the Bourhill Parish Hall. **A parent** will need to attend one of the workshops **with the child**. At that workshop a facilitator will help parents and children talk about faith and confirmation. We have always had positive feedback from the children on the workshop.

On Thursday, 9 May a retreat will be held for the children. All children are required to attend. State schools have given children permission to attend in the past. Santa Maria has indicated that children at that school may attend and it is our expectation that other Catholic schools will do the same. Please speak to



your child's teacher about it. The programme includes a rehearsal for confirmation.

After the confirmation all the families come together for a Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday, 9 June at 6pm at which the children receive their certificates. There will be cake and other food after the Mass.

As you can see there are not many events. It is very important for the children and their families to participate regularly in Sunday Mass if they are not already doing so. The Mass is at the heart of our Catholic identity and faith. We are, indeed, baptised and confirmed so that we can participate fully in the Mass.

If you have any questions please do speak to children's teachers or catechist or call the parish office. This Sacrament is a very special moment in your child's journey of faith and your parish community looks forward to supporting you in the journey and to the celebration of the Sacrament.

Summary of Dates

Enrolment and Commitment Mass – Saturday, 24 February at 6pm

Parent-child workshop – Wednesday, 14 March at 5pm or 6.30pm

Retreat day – Thursday, 9 May, 8.45am – 2.30pm

Confirmation – Saturday, 19 May at 6pm and Sunday, 20 May at 11am

Thanksgiving Mass and presentation of certificates – Saturday, 9 June at 6pm

God bless.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Fernandez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr Sean Fernandez
Parish Priest