

HOLY INNOCENTS'
SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION 2016
AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2017



Dear parents and caregivers,

As a baptised member of the Catholic Church, your child, now in year two, is eligible to take the next step in their sacramental life. This is the sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession as it was once known. This sacrament must be received before First Holy Communion which, in the Sydney Archdiocese, is received in year 3.

In order to be eligible for this sacrament, your child must participate in a careful preparation program conducted by the Holy Innocents' Parish. You will be required to accompany your child to attend four preparation sessions characterised by discussion and written activities.

The 2016 program for First Reconciliation will commence with an **information meeting for parents**. This will be held in the Holy Innocent's Parish hall at **7.00 pm on Thursday, September 22nd**. Over the following weeks, candidates and families will participate in the Sydney Archdiocese Sacramental Program which will culminate in the celebration of the sacrament of First Reconciliation on **Saturday, 19th November at 2pm**.

Please observe the following enrolment requirements.

- Children need to be in year two or above to be enrolled as candidates.
- Children must have received the sacrament of Baptism.
- **A copy of your child's Baptism certificate is required.**
- A contribution of \$50 will be required to cover costs of books, materials, certificates and gifts for the sacrament of Reconciliation only. There will be an additional fee in 2017 for First Holy Communion.
- The online enrolment form must be completed (*instructions on the following page*).
- Candidates and their families must attend one Mass at Holy Innocent's Parish each weekend during the program.
- Candidates and parents must attend the four weekly preparations sessions leading up to the sacrament.
- Candidates and parents must attend the commitment Mass on **Sunday, 16th October at 10am**.
- Candidates must attend a retreat afternoon on **Saturday, 12th November** where they will work with Fr Peter and Mrs Miceli to consolidate and further explore their understandings of the sacrament.

Preparation Groups

Four preparation sessions will be held where candidates and adults will work together to learn about the sacrament.

- These will be facilitated by a group leader who may be a parish member, or parent of one of the children.
- The day and time of these group sessions will be made known at the information evening.
- Follow-up home activities will complement each session.
- **Parent participation is required at each session throughout the program.**
- The coordinator or group leader must be advised if you and your child will not be attending a preparation session. Candidates and their parents must not be absent for more than one session. The missed session must be made up with another group or completed at home.
- Groups will be comprised of approximately eight to ten families. If you are able to assist in leading a group, please nominate so on the enrolment form or contact Suzanne Miceli prior to the information evening. Apart from a desire to explore, share and support the developing faith of your child, no special knowledge or skill is required to lead the weekly gatherings. You may decide to lead sessions in your family home or in the parish hall at a time that is convenient to you. The necessary materials and background information will be provided. A preparation session for leaders and hosts will take place at an agreed time.

How to Enrol:

Enrolments will not be open until 15th September, 2016. Please do not try to enrol before this date.

To begin your child's enrolment in this sacramental program, please visit the Reconciliation page on the Holy Innocents' parish website:

<http://www.holyinnocentscroydon.org.au/sacraments/reconciliation> and follow the link to our online form. Enrolments will be open from Thursday September 15th and close on Monday October 17th. *If you do not have the facilities to complete the online form, please contact Suzanne Miceli.*

We require a copy of your child's baptismal certificate as part of their registration. If your child was baptised at Holy Innocents' and you do not have a copy, please inform Suzanne Miceli **not the Parish office**. If baptised in another parish you will need to contact them for a copy of the certificate. **This is a compulsory element of the enrolment process.** Enrolment is not complete and your child will not be able to make the Sacrament of Reconciliation until the certificate is submitted. If you need to obtain a copy from another Parish, please do so immediately as it may take some time to organise. This can be emailed to Suzanne Miceli or bought to the information evening.

We accept cash/cheques as well as online payments via BPoint. If you wish to pay by cash/cheque, please bring this payment with you to the information evening. If you wish to pay online, please do so before completing the online enrolment form. You will be asked for your receipt number.

Making an online payment with BPoint:

Please visit either of these websites:

- a. <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/croydonparish>
 - b. <http://www.holyinnocentscroydon.org.au/donation-to-parish> then, at the bottom of the page, select "Click here to donate"
2. In the first field, entitled "Biller Code", please select "Sacramental Programs".
 3. Fill in the remaining required details, then select your card type.
 4. Follow the instructions on screen to complete your payment.
 5. **You must then complete the online form. Making a payment does not complete the enrolment process**

If you require further information please contact the Sacramental Coordinator, Mrs Suzanne Miceli on 0409244951 or via email at sacraments.hic@gmail.com.



Fr Peter Krigovsky
Parish Administrator



Suzanne Miceli
Parish Sacramental
Coordinator

Date	Time	Place	Event
15/09/16	9am	online	Online enrolment opens www.holyinnocentscroydon.org.au Click on Sacraments Reconciliation
22/09/16	7pm	hall	Parent information meeting
16/10/16	10am	Church	Commitment Mass
17/10/16	Midnight	online	Enrolment closes
10/10-16/10	Group leaders to determine time, day& place of preparation sessions. Further details available at information evening		Week 1 Preparation sessions
17/10-23/10			Week 2 Preparation sessions
24/10-30/10			Week 3 Preparation sessions
31/10-6/11			Week 4 Preparation sessions
12/11/2016	3pm - 4.45pm	hall	Retreat afternoon
19/11/16	2pm	Church hall	Sacrament of First Reconciliation Followed by afternoon tea

First Holy Communion 2017 will be held in late May or early June. No specific date has yet been chosen. You will be informed ASAP when a decision has been made.