



# ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH MARAYONG

## Parish Vision Statement

We are an active and welcoming Catholic community,  
where people of all ages draw closer to God.  
His love is expressed through each one of us by prayer  
liturgy and reaching out in service to one another.



## FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT

Please visit our Parish Website: [www.standrewsmarayong.org.au](http://www.standrewsmarayong.org.au) Year C: Vol.51 No.04

21st December 2025

### THE PARRAMATTA WAY OF SAFEGUARDING IS TO...

Act with Justice, and state that we have a zero tolerance for any form of abuse or harm to children or any person; ensure that laws and obligations are upheld, and safety is paramount.

"This is what the Lord asks of you: only this, to act justly,  
to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)



#### PARISH STAFF:

Fr. Kevin Redmond sm,  
Fr. Floyd Gatana sm,  
Fr. Lauro Arcede sm.  
Maria Hyson  
(Sacramental Coordinator)  
Merlinda (Merly) Generalao,  
Michelle Sultana &  
Joe Clemson  
(Office staff)

#### PARISH OFFICE:

Phone: 9622 0817  
40 Breakfast Rd, Marayong 2148  
[PO Box 4345]

Email Address:  
[saapm@bigpond.com](mailto:saapm@bigpond.com)

Office Hours:  
Monday to Friday  
9.00am to 4.00pm  
after hours 9671 5793

#### PRESBYTERY:

41 Breakfast Rd, Marayong

#### FR. BYRNE CENTRE:

(Parish Meeting Rooms)  
38 Breakfast Rd, Marayong.

#### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

- After weekday & Saturday morning Masses.
- Before Vigil Masses Saturday afternoon 4:00-4:30pm
- Anytime by arrangement.

#### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms: 1st & 3rd Sunday  
each month at 11:45am

#### Baptismal Preparation:

Second Wednesday of  
each month at 7.30pm  
in the Fr Byrne Centre.

Please book for Baptisms  
with the Parish Office.

#### PIETY STALL:

By asking for an appointment  
at the Parish Office.

#### WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday:  
Vigil 5.00pm  
Sunday:  
7.30am, 8.45am  
& 10.30am

#### WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday: 9.00am  
Tuesday: 9.00am  
Wednesday: 9.00am  
+ see below  
Thursday: as below  
Friday: 9.00am  
Saturday: 9.00am

#### PARISH SCHOOLS:

##### ST. ANDREW'S PRIMARY

[www.standrewspsmarayong.catholic.edu.au](http://www.standrewspsmarayong.catholic.edu.au)  
Principal: Yvette McGowen  
Phone: 8869 6700  
Address: 36 Breakfast Road  
Marayong 2148

##### ST. ANDREWS COLLEGE

[www.standrewscmarayong.catholic.edu.au](http://www.standrewscmarayong.catholic.edu.au)  
College Principal:  
Stephen Kennaugh  
Phone: 9626 4000

Campus -  
JUNIOR CAMPUS (YRS. 7-10)  
Address: 116 Quakers Road  
Marayong 2148

SENIOR CAMPUS (YRS. 11-12)  
Address: 50 Breakfast Road  
Marayong 2148



## Christmas at St Andrews

### MISA DE GALLO

4:30am December 16 ~ 24  
Nine Dawn Masses with  
Mary, Mother of God

### CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Wednesday, 24th December

6:00 pm & 8:00 pm

(Christmas—Vigil Masses)

Carols at 11:15 pm

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Thursday, 25th December

Midnight Mass - 12:00am

7:30am, 8:45am & 10:30am.

(Christmas Morning Masses)

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

After 9:00 am Weekday &  
Saturday morning Masses

Before Vigil Mass 4:00-4:30pm  
Saturday afternoon

Or by appointment

### SECOND RITE

Parish Reconciliation  
9:30am Saturday, 20th December



# Joseph ... Do Not Be Afraid

As we come to the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we draw closer to the end of our Advent journey this year, one of the themes that we can reflect upon is the idea of change. Our loving God often asks us to change our minds or outlook or behaviour to store up treasure for ourselves in Heaven or to have our names written in the book of life.

In the Gospel we hear Matthew's version of the birth of Jesus, focusing on Joseph. We are told Joseph had made up his mind to divorce Mary, after she was found to be pregnant but, in a dream, the angel of the Lord came to him and convinced him to change his mind. The Angel asks Joseph to not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The pregnancy was not the result of infidelity but the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph did what the angel of the Lord had said. This is critical because it is through Joseph that Jesus is descended from David.

Can we be inspired by the example of Joseph and change our minds? Do we have the courage to change or are we too afraid to see things from a different perspective? We are preparing for the joy of the birth of Jesus at Christmas and of course the birth of a child transforms lives and 'change' is hardly an adequate description of the difference a baby makes to the household and family.

Our perspective and outlook can be transformed because the birth of a child invites us to recognise that we are no longer living our lives for ourselves but for another. Parents have talked to me about being tired, tired like never before, being stressed and being time poor but they also reflect about how the new member of the family brings joy and hope like nothing else.

Are we open to change? Can we allow ourselves to know that God is offering us something so precious? All too easily we can get caught up in the silly season, but I hope and pray that each of us can take some time to recognise the difference the birth of Jesus makes in our lives and our world.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas to you, to all those you love and who love you. .... *Fr Kevin Redmond sm*

20th & 21st December 2025		LITURGY ROSTER		[3rd Sunday of the Month]	
	5.00pm	7.30am	8.45am	10.30am	
<b>MINISTERS AT THE ALTAR</b>	Romeo Gapud,	Elvie Clark John Blackford	Aileen Dela Cruz Joanel Dela Cruz	Ding Mojica, Morie Balisbisan	
<b>COMMENTATOR</b>	Erna Ferrer	Julie Nunez	Donna Ison	YouthWorks	
<b>FIRST READER</b>	Joyce Vincent	Sharmali Perera	Melvina Vaz	YouthWorks	
<b>SECOND READER</b>	Mariyam Wijeyaratnam	Agnes Zabala	Elizabeth Abbey	YouthWorks	
<b>PROJECTIONIST</b>	Demmyfyrh Desouza, Evelyn Moras		Jeremy Portelli	Louisa Velasco	
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>	Nenette Gapud, Cezare Estrera, Christiane Zammit, Mary-Ann Zammit.	Suzanne Daniels, Anthony Culbert, Maryse Pereira.	Maryanne Parsons, Rittarina Reay, Henrietta D'Sa, Estrellita Viola, +1	Aida Jamolin, Therrie Chin, Vicky & Jay Ilagan, Maricor Espinosa. Bessie Mojica.	
<b>USHERS/ WELCOMERS</b>	Henryka Ogrodniczek, Janine Wheeler	Claire Blunt, Anthony Culbert			
<b>MUSIC</b>	Lorraine's Group	NO Music Mass	St Andrew's Family Choir	Fresh in Faith Youth Choir	

24th & 25th December 2025		LITURGY ROSTER		CHRISTMAS		
	6:00PM VIGIL MASS	8:00PM VIGIL MASS	12:00AM MIDNIGHT MASS	7:30AM CHRISTMAS DAY	8:45AM CHRISTMAS DAY	10:30AM CHRISTMAS DAY
<b>MINISTERS AT THE ALTAR</b>	Ferdi Chin Jacob Chin	Romeo Gapud	Elvie Clark, Joy Kakodkar	Ruben Bables	Joy Kakodkar	Morie Balisbisan
<b>COMMENTATOR</b>	Therrie Chin	Nenette Gapud	Vinetta Lobo	Julie Nunez	Maria Hyson	Maricor Espinosa
<b>FIRST READER</b>	Josephine Daly	Erna Ferrer	Nila Mangona	Zeni Bables	Rose Rotik	Linda Rane
<b>SECOND READER</b>	Melvina Vaz	Mariyam Wijeyaratnam	Martin Zammit		Felix Villamarin	Maria Carpio
<b>PROJECTIONIST</b>	Abigail Chin	<i>Volunteer Required</i>	<i>Volunteer Required</i>	<i>Volunteer Required</i>	<i>Volunteer Required</i>	<i>Volunteer Required</i>
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>	Luke Binny, Rittarina Reay, +	V & T D'Lima	Linda Rane, +	Geraldine Pereira. Maryse Pereira, +	Mariyam Wijeyaratnam, Rittarina Reay, +	Vicky Ilagan, +
<b>WELCOMERS</b>	<i>Volunteer Required</i>	Theodora & Valerian	<i>Volunteer Required</i>	<i>Volunteer Required</i>	<i>Volunteer Required</i>	<i>Volunteer Required</i>
<b>MUSICIANS</b>	Fresh in Faith Youth Choir	Choir & Rondalla Group	Combined Choir	NO Music Mass	mp3 Music Mass	Mafi Family

27th & 28th December 2025		LITURGY ROSTER		[4th Sunday of the Month]	
	5.00pm	7.30am	8.45am	10.30am	
<b>MINISTERS AT THE ALTAR</b>	Myles Anderiesz, Kartiko Effendy	Aileen Dela Cruz Joanel Dela Cruz	Maria Hyson Joy Kakodkar	Noe Adan, Ding Mojica	
<b>COMMENTATOR</b>	Nenette Gapud	Julie Nunez	Vinetta Lobo	Maria Carpio	
<b>FIRST READER</b>	Dorris Barrios	Elvie Clark	Rittarina Reay	Linda Rane	
<b>SECOND READER</b>	Therrie Chin	Elizabeth Abbey	Lydia Villamarin	Socorro Amos	
<b>PROJECTIONIST</b>	Jerome Chin		Mariah Cutajar		
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>	Merlie Domingo., Mariyam Wijeyaratnam, Anne Marie Moriarty, Henryka Ogrodniczek	Linda Dessa, Geraldine Pereira, Maurice Perera	Annette Morales, Joshua Daly, Maryanne Parsons, Estrellita Viola, Revathi Hyson	Brenda Payne, Virginia Salom, Luke Binny, Anna Amos, Socorro Amos. +1	
<b>USHERS/ WELCOMERS</b>	Henryka Ogrodniczek, Janine Wheeler	Claire Blunt, Anthony Culbert			
<b>MUSIC</b>	Hearts of Jesus & Mary	NO Music Mass	?	Couples For Christ Australia	



## PARISH YOUTH GROUP

E: youthworksadmin@gmail.com

IG / FB @youthworksmarayong

December 19 - CHOIR PRACTICE - 7pm at the FBC  
December 20 - HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS EVENT - 6pm at the FBC  
December 21 - YOUTH MASS - 10:30am

## MISA DE GALLO



Our parish here at St. Andrew-Marayong, will celebrate **Misa de Gallo** at 4:30 am each morning from 16 to 24 December 2025.

Celebrated as a nine-day Masses at dawn or early morning, it expresses Advent watchfulness, Marian devotion, preparation for the celebration of the mystery of Incarnation, Eucharistic commitment, and communal solidarity as the Church

## Christmas Offering Envelopes



These envelopes provide funding to supplement our first collection and they go to the support of our clergy throughout the diocese.

We do need to ensure that we can provide for our current priests and also for our retired and housebound priests.

*Your generosity would be appreciated - envelopes at the doors of the church.*

## LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE 2026

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence next year in February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. To enrol and for more information, please contact the Parish Office. **Spaces are limited so enrol now to avoid disappointment; registrations close 23rd January, 2026.**



### THIS SUNDAY:

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14  
Psalm: Ps 23:1-6  
Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7  
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

### CHRISTMAS:

#### THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7  
Psalm: Ps 95:1-3, 11-13  
Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14  
Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

### NEXT SUNDAY:

#### THE HOLY FAMILY

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14  
Psalm: Ps 127:1-5  
Second Reading: Col 3:12-21  
Gospel: Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

### During the week prayers have been requested for.....

Raul Abela, Guilherme Alvares, Josephine Alvares,  
Rodolfo Arcilla Snr., Marian Arrastia, Joseph Bartolo,  
Christian Raymond Barrios, Luke Bleasdale, Mark Caruana,  
Joseph & Irène Bouquet, Regina Castelino, Sonny Castelino,  
Michael Clark, Julie & Paul Clemson, Arsenio 'Sonny' Cortez,  
Mary Cumbo, Owen D'Cruz, Theresa D'Cruz, Frank Falzon,  
John Falzon, Marie Falzon, Purita Fernando, Emma Gacusana,  
John Galea, Rosamma George, Elizabeth Hales,  
Matthew Emanuel Linhart, Irene Manché, Ronald Manlapo,  
Amalina Martyris, Benjamin Martyris, Joseph Martyris,  
Sr Alice Martyris, Graciano Menezes, Gregory Menezes,  
Maria Menezes, Marvin Monzon, Inocencio Ortiz Luis JR,  
Jerome Pace, Rosita Punzalan, Phillip Rodriques,  
Eduardo Ronquillo, Josephine Schembri, Solon & Sarah Sicat,  
Joan Slater, Bernard Sultana, Ralph Vaz,  
Manuel & Ressurecceon Tolentino, Aeldred & Riolen Weber,  
Stella & Felic Zammit, Collins & Quinn Families,  
McCabe & Fitzgibbon Families, All Souls in Purgatory  
.....**Please remember in your prayers**

## Sunday

21-Dec

### 4th Sunday of Advent

Counters: Group 11

Marriage Blessing - All Masses

04:30 Misa de Gallo

07:30 Mass

08:45 Mass

10:30 Mass

11:45 Baptism

## Monday

22-Dec

22-Dec

04:30 Misa de Gallo

09:00 Mass

15:30 Jnr Legion of Mary

19:00 SVdP Meeting

*School Holidays commence*

## Tuesday

23-Dec

23-Dec

Commemoration of  
St John of Kęty, Priest

04:30 Misa de Gallo

09:00 Mass

19:00 Legion of Mary

19:30 Music Practice  
combined choir

## Wednesday

24-Dec

24-Dec

04:30 Misa de Gallo

09:00 Mass

Noon Office Closes

18:00 Vigil Mass

20:00 Vigil Mass

23:15 Carols

**Midnight Mass**

## Thursday

25-Dec

### Christmas Day

The **NATIVITY** of the LORD

07:30 Mass

08:45 Mass

10:30 Mass

Public Holiday  
Office Closed

## Friday

26-Dec

Saint Stephen, the first Martyr  
Boxing Day

09:00 Mass

15:30 Jnr Legion of Mary

Public Holiday  
Office Closed

## Saturday

27-Dec

Saint John, Apostle, Evangelist

09:00 Mass for the Sick

09:40 Legion of Mary

16:00 Jnr Legion of Mary

17:00 Vigil Mass



## The Parish Office will be closed

from Noon on Wednesday, 24th December 2025  
and will re-open on Friday, 2nd January 2026



**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen** OFM Conv DD STL  
Bishop of Parramatta

Bethany Centre, 470 Church St, Parramatta NSW 2150, Australia  
PO Box 3066, North Parramatta, NSW 1750

☎ 02 8838 3400 📠 02 9630 4813

✉ [bishop@parracatholic.org](mailto:bishop@parracatholic.org)

🌐 [parracatholic.org](http://parracatholic.org)

15 December 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The tragedy at Bondi Beach yesterday has shocked and deeply saddened our entire community, with many carrying fear, grief and unanswered questions.

Such violence is a grave assault on human dignity and can never be justified. We condemn this act unequivocally and reject all hatred that seeks to harm innocent people. There is no place for antisemitism, especially in Australia.

Together with all people, and with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, we stand in solidarity with the Jewish community and pray for all those affected – those who have lost their lives or been injured, and the many individuals, families and communities whose lives have been changed in an instant.

We also pray for the first responders, healthcare workers, and members of the public who acted with courage and compassion in the face of danger – protecting others, offering help and bringing calm and support amid uncertainty. These acts of self-giving love and care reflect the very best of our humanity, our shared values, and our hope for each other.

Let us continue to offer our care, compassion and prayers, calling on Mary, our Mother and Queen of Peace, to intercede for us.

At times like this, it is vital that we do not allow fear or anger to divide us. Violence, retaliation and discrimination are never the answer, even in the face of terrorism and antisemitism.

As Pope Leo XIV reminds us, peace is “an unarmed peace and a disarming peace, humble and persevering. It comes from God, God who loves us all unconditionally.” This is the peace to which we are called, even when the path is difficult.

I invite our Diocesan community to pray for healing, for comfort for all who mourn, and for a renewed commitment to unity, mutual respect and peace across our diverse faiths and cultures. May we continue to stand together against violence in all its forms. May God be close to all who are suffering, and may His peace rest upon our community.

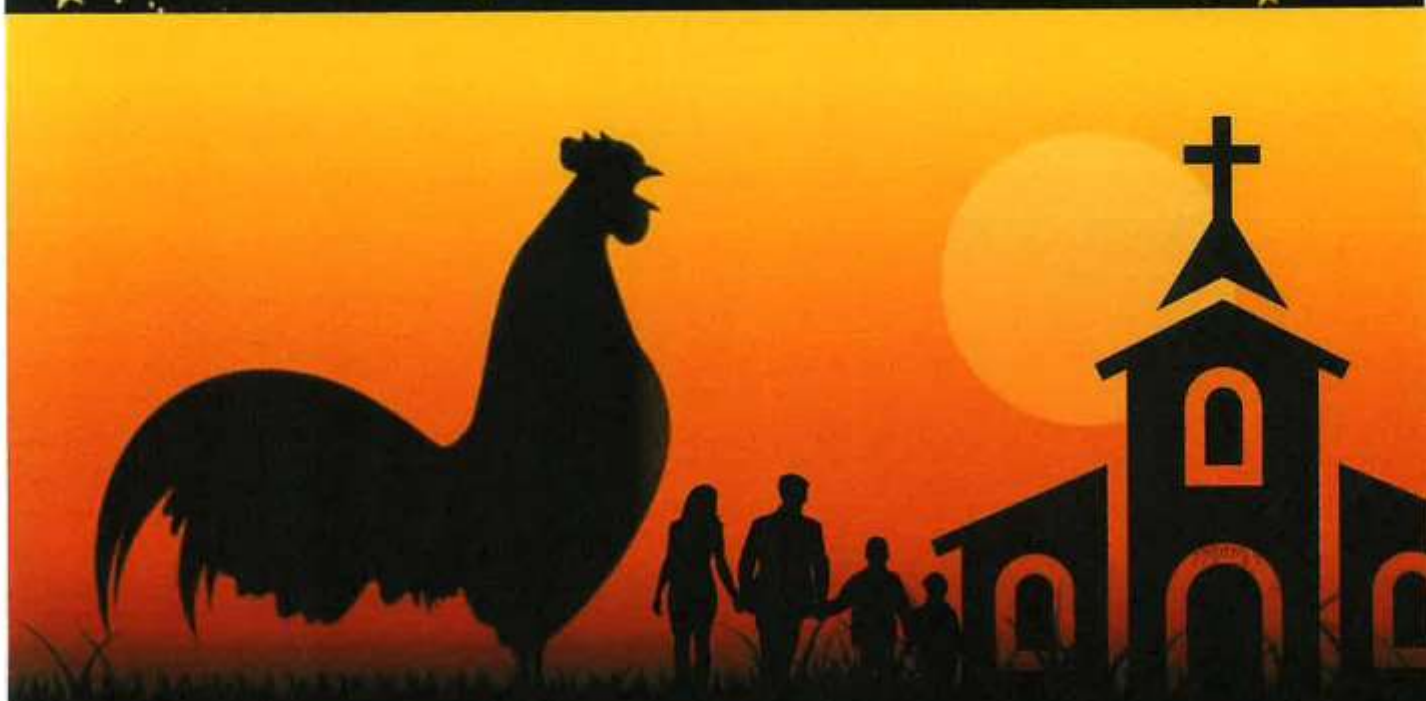
Yours sincerely in Christ,

**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv.**  
**Bishop of Parramatta**



# MISA DE GALLO 2025

Nine Dawn Masses with MARY, Mother of God  
in joyful preparation for CHRISTMAS  
at **ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH**  
**MARAYONG**



"The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber,  
because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.  
The night is nearly over; the day is almost here..." *cf. Romans 13:11-12*

**4:30 AM EACH MORNING**  
**FROM 16 TO 24 DECEMBER 2025**

ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE CHURCH  
40 BREAKFAST ROAD, MARAYONG, NEW SOUTH WALES 2148



# “IN SANTO NIÑO WE ARE ONE”

36th  
Anniversary

Fiesta Sinulog  
2026



Cofradia del  
Señor Santo Niño  
of Sydney Incorporated



**Main Celebrant: Fr Wim Hoekstra, EV**

**Sunday, 18 Jan '26 Concelebrated Mass at 2:00 pm**

**St Patrick's Church, 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown, NSW 2148**

**All devotees please bring your Santo Niño Statues**

Contact Persons:

Ella 0404 871 319 . Marideth 0407 250 562 . Nick 0413 066 490 Luz 0410 564 331  
Marissa 0431 503 333 . Dianne 0420 844 955 . Aline 0416 876 912 . Sarah 0405 756 752

## **SCHEDULE OF THE 9-DAYS NOVENA MASSES @ 7 PM**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Address</b>
Day 1 Thursday , 8th Jan	Holy Spirit Catholic Church	5 Todd Row, St Clair, NSW 2759
Day 2 Friday , 9th Jan	St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church	326 High Street, Penrith NSW 2750
Day 3 Saturday , 10th Jan	Our Lady of Holy Rosary Catholic Church	26 Swanston Street, St Marys 2760
Day 4 Sunday , 11th Jan	St Aidan's Catholic Church	9 Adelaide Street, Rooty Hill, NSW 2766
Day 5 Monday , 12th Jan	St Paul, the Apostle Catholic Church	40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills, NSW 2153
Day 6 Tuesday , 13th Jan	The Good Shepherd Catholic Church	136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton, NSW 2761
Day 7 Wednesday , 14th Jan	St Andrew, The Apostle Catholic Church	40 Breakfast Road, Marayong, NSW 2148
Day 8 Thursday , 15th Jan	Mary Immaculate Catholic Church	125 Barnier Drive, Quakers Hill, NSW 2763
Day 9 Friday , 16th Jan	Our Lady of the Rosary Church	8 Diana Avenue, Kellyville NSW 2155

# Sacramental Program Dates for 2026

## SACRAMENT OF FIRST PENANCE (RECONCILIATION)

*The Sacrament of First Penance Program will take place in Term 1 for children in Years 3 & above who have been baptised.*

**Registration Forms may be collected from the Parish Office  
from Tuesday 27th January 2026**

[These forms may also be collected from the Parish Office  
on Sundays 1st February and 8th February 2026 between 9.30 and 11.30am]

**Registration Evening:**

**Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 7.00pm in the Church**

**Classes:**

**Sundays 22nd February, 1st March and 8th March 2026**

[Classes begin with 8.45am Mass and conclude at approximately 11.30am]



**Sacrament of First Penance will be celebrated on :**

**Saturday 14th March (9:30 am) and/or Saturday 21st March (9:30 am) 2026**

## SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

*This Program will commence in Term 2 for children in Years 3 and above who have received the Sacrament of Penance.*

**Registration Forms** may be collected from the Parish Office starting  
**Monday 20th April 2026**

[These forms may also be collected from the Parish Office  
on Sunday 26th April and Sunday 3rd May 2026 between 9.30 and 11.30am]

**Registration Evening:**

**Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 7.00pm in the Church**



**Classes: Sunday 24th May & Sunday 31st May 2026**

[Classes begin with 8.45am Mass and conclude at approximately 11.30am]

**Sacrament of First Holy Communion:**

**Saturday 20th June (5pm), Sunday 21st June (8:45am)  
Saturday 27th June (5pm) and Sunday 28th June (8:45 am)**

## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

*This Program will commence in Term 3 for children in Years 5 & above who have made their First Holy Communion.*

**Registration Forms** may be collected from the Parish Office  
**from Monday 20th July 2026**

[These forms may also be collected from the Parish Office  
on Sunday 26th July and Sunday 2nd August 2026 between 9.30 and 11.30am]

**Registration Evening:**

**Tuesday 4th August at 7.00 pm in the Church**

**Classes: Sunday 23rd August & Sunday 30th August 2026**

[Classes begin with 8.45 am Mass and conclude at approximately 11.30am]



**Sacrament of Confirmation Ceremony:**

**15th & 16th September 2026 at 7:00pm**