

Parish Religious Education Program Parent Information Sheet

Classes are held on Tuesday afternoons of school terms, between 4pm and 5pm at Orana Catholic Primary School, crn of Querrin and Vahland Avenues, Willetton (occasionally special masses are held @ Sts John and Paul Church on Pinetree Gully Road, Willetton). These classes are designed to provide for the religious education of children outside the Catholic school system, including preparation of children to celebrate the Sacraments of First Reconciliation in year 3, First Holy Communion in year 4 and Confirmation in year 6/7. These are minimum age requirements for each Sacrament and children older than these ages who need to prepare are most welcome to join the sacramental classes.

We use the year 5 & 6 classes as an introductory step in Confirmation preparation by establishing a 'Care Program' at this level. The 'Care Program' is designed so that children will come to know about *and participate in* those groups in our Church community who are involved in the ministry of caring for others (eg. John Paul Care, St. Vincent de Paul, Project Compassion, Growing Vine etc.). It has been designed to reflect the vitality and service of a maturing faith - which is what we celebrate in Confirmation. Those children transferring to Catholic High Schools for Yr 7 can be prepared & receive Confirmation in Yr 6 provided they are in the program for minimum of 2 years in keeping with the Archdiocesan Policy. Children are encouraged to attend classes regularly & stay in the program all year round not just in time for the Sacrament.

The content of the lessons for all years are based on the program developed by the Archdiocesan Catechist Service, "The Truth Will Set You Free". We attempt to make the classes interesting and enjoyable, not merely an extension of the school day. The catechists are all volunteers who are either teachers or who have done the catechist training course. They deserve the greatest respect and consideration from both you and your child/ren. Similarly, all school property must be treated with the utmost care and respect.

In order to run the program , we need your help and cooperation in the following ways:

- Ensure that your child/ren attend classes regularly, as lessons follow on from one another. If for some reason your child/ren cannot attend a class, please contact me on my mobile on the day (0412045039) or leave a message on the morning at the parish office(9332 5992)
- Take an interest in what your child/ren are doing, and ensure the notes sent home are read and followed thru.
- Ensure that your child/ren bring a biro/pencil, coloured pencils, scissors, gluestick to lessons every week. Each Yr Catechists may also have additional requirements. Years 4-7 should also bring along their New Testament each week (if you do not have one or your child/ren have lost theirs, you can obtain a replacement for \$2.50).
- Help your child/ren to understand and participate in Sunday Mass by encouraging regular attendance (Mass times are Sat. 6.30pm, Sun. 7.30am, 9am and 10.30am.). At all Masses except the 7.30 am, there is a special Liturgy of the Word for children aged 6-9 which helps them to better understand the readings. Frequently receive Reconciliation (Sat morn 9.30-10am & 5.30-6.00pm)

Fees for this year have been set at \$20 per child or \$40 for families of two or more children. If your child/ren will be preparing to celebrate a Sacrament a separate form will be required at the time of the Sacrament Parent Meeting, also a fee of \$25.00 per Sacrament is applicable this fee helps cover the cost of medals, certificates, retreat days, etc

Please also ensure that you read carefully the "Duty of Care Statement" which is for the protection of your child/ren whilst they are with us. Please sign and return the Enrolment form with the fee to the parish office no later than 13th Feb 2009.

Thank you in anticipation of your support and cooperation as we work together for the formation of our children. Classes start on Tuesday the 17th Feb 09 @ 4.00pm @ Orana.

The Catechist team and I are looking forward to an enjoyable year ahead and together we can make a difference in our community.

Mildred Rego

Catechist Co-Ordinator