Parish Sacramental Policy 2013

St. Anne’s Parish, Seaford conducts a parish based sacramental programme. The programme applies to all eligible students from the two parish primary schools plus eligible students from the parish who attend other schools within parish boundaries. In view of this there is no need to conduct separate after school catechetical classes for government/private school students.

The reason for a parish based programme is that in the past we have produced programmes that educate parents in the right, duties, privileges and responsibilities of the Sacraments. Experience shows that once these adult education sessions are completed and children celebrate the relevant Sacrament, identification with this faith community is usually not maintained.

In the light of this reality I, as Parish Priest, instigated this process for those who wish to have a school-age child receive any of the Sacraments i.e. Reconciliation, First Eucharist or Confirmation. This programme also includes the Sacrament of Baptism for Older School Age Children aged 7 – 12 years.

The sacramental programme fundamentally involves attendance at Mass. Where this aspect of the programme proves difficult for a family please contact the parish office to arrange an appointment with Fr John.

The following provides a brief overview of what is required:

1. An enrolment acceptance weekend when children and their families make a public commitment to attend Mass at weekends. Children are required to bring up their enrolment slips during Mass as part of this public commitment. Fr John will formally accept these enrolment slips and acknowledge the commitment that they represent.
2. Each child will be enrolled and a database will be set up to monitor their Mass attendance.
3. At the end of each Mass, children will be given homework sheets to complete, based on the Sunday readings and Fr. John’s homily etc.
4. Homework sheets are to be completed and returned the following week. These sheets will be brought up during Mass and presented to Fr. John.
5. Fr. John will personally correct all homework sheets during the week.
6. This gives Fr. John a clearer understanding of your child’s spiritual and sacramental readiness to receive their sacraments.
7. At the end of Mass the children will be given homework to be returned the following week.
8. There will also be ongoing sessions for children run by Fr. John to educate the children in their faith development throughout the year.
9. There is a fee of $60.00 to cover administration costs payable at the time of enrolment. If a family is currently contributing to the parish thanksgiving the fee is $30.00. If a family is unable to meet the cost of the sacramental programme please let Fr. John know.
10. Children may receive only one Sacrament per calendar year.
11. Sacraments are to be celebrated in the following order:

   Baptism
   Reconciliation
   Eucharist
   Confirmation
12. Parents are also required to attend an Adult Education Programme so that they can assist in their child’s preparation of the Sacraments. Details of the Adult Education Programme for each Sacrament will be forwarded to parents via the parish bulletin and parish schools for those children who are eligible to receive Sacraments this year.

13. Failure to commit to the above may result in the celebration of the Sacrament/s being deferred until a later date.

14. Fundamentally it a parent’s responsibility to pass on the faith to their children. It is not the responsibility of the school your child attends.

15. The parish will assist you in this endeavour but it is ultimately your responsibility to bring up your child in the practice of the faith.

DATES FOR THE PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2013

Enrolments

Tuesday 5th February 2013 - Enrolments for all sacraments open on this date at the parish office. Parish staff will also attend our two parish primary schools on the following dates to assist parents with their enrolments. Parents are reminded of the requirement to provide a copy of their child/children’s baptism certificate unless previously supplied to the parish office.

Thursday 7th February – 8.30am at St. Joachim’s Primary School

Tuesday 12th February – 8.30am at St. Anne’s Primary School

Wednesday 13th February – 2.30pm at St. Anne’s Primary School

Friday 15th February – 2.30pm at St. Joachim’s Primary School

The parish office is open Tuesday – Friday from 9.30am – 4.30pm to accept enrolments for the sacramental programme. To further assist parents the parish office will be open on the following Saturday:

Saturday 9th February 9.30am – 3.00pm

22nd February 2012 – Enrolments for Sacramental Programme 2013 CLOSE

For parents unable to attend the above enrolment times please contact the parish office for alternative arrangements. Please note that this will be the only enrolment period for all sacraments to be received this year.

Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th February – Enrolment Acceptance Weekend

Enrolment acceptance weekend when children and their families make a public commitment to attend Mass at weekends. Children are required to bring up their enrolment slips during Mass as part of this public commitment. Fr John will formally accept these enrolment slips and acknowledge the commitment that they represent.
Sacrament of Baptism for Older Children

It will be necessary for parent/s to attend an Adult Faith Education Session in preparation for their child’s Baptism.

**Time** 9.45am – 10.45am  
**Place** Parish Centre Meeting Room  
**Date** Saturday 3rd August

*Our Baptism Coordinator will work with parents to arrange the baptism of their child/children in the October – December period.*

Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Adult Sacramental Preparation Sessions**

It will be necessary for parent/s to attend an Adult Faith Education Course in preparation for their child’s reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Time** 4.00pm – 5.30pm  
**Place** Parish Centre Meeting Room  
**Dates** Saturday 16th March and Saturday 23rd March  
Or  
**Time** 7.30pm – 9.00pm  
**Place** Parish Centre Meeting Room  
**Dates** Tuesday 19th March and Tuesday 26th March

Please note that these sessions are planned for one and a half hour duration. Please be punctual for everyone’s convenience so that we can begin and finish on time. Another key date for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the weekend 16th & 17th March. Parents are asked to bring their child/children along to any of the weekend Masses to make a commitment to the preparation of this Sacrament.

Sacrament of First Eucharist

**Adult Sacramental Preparation Sessions**

It will be necessary for parent/s to attend an Adult Faith Education Course in preparation for their child’s reception of the Sacrament of First Eucharist.

**Time** 4.00pm – 5.30pm  
**Place** Parish Centre Meeting Room  
**Dates** Saturday 20th April, Saturday 27th April and Saturday 4th May  
Or  
**Time** 7.30pm – 9.00pm  
**Place** Parish Centre Meeting Room  
**Dates** Tuesday 23rd April, Tuesday 30th April and Tuesday 7th May

Please note that these sessions are planned for one and a half hour duration. Please be punctual for everyone’s convenience so that we can begin and finish on time. Another key date for the Sacrament of First Eucharist is the weekend 20th & 21st April. Parents are asked to bring their child/children along to any of the weekend Masses to make a commitment to the preparation of this Sacrament.

**May 11th & 12th, May 25th & 26th and June 1st & 2nd**

All Masses on these weekends have been set aside for First Eucharist. Please note that the maximum number of children making this sacrament at any mass is 8.
Sacrament of Confirmation

Adult Sacramental Preparation Sessions
It will be necessary for parent/s to attend an Adult Faith Education Course in preparation for their child’s reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

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Please note that these sessions are planned for one and a half hour duration. Please be punctual for everyone’s convenience so that we can begin and finish on time. Another key date for the Sacrament of Confirmation is the weekend 7th & 8th September. Parents are asked to bring their child/children along to any of the weekend Masses to make a commitment to the preparation of this Sacrament.

Confirmation Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Peter Elliott on Sunday October 13th at 1.30pm.

St Anne’s is a wonderful parish; please give your child the best by belonging to us. Simply put we are the best parish in the Archdiocese.