Applecross Parish
Sacramental Program

St Benedict’s Catholic Church

For more information please contact
Colleen on 9364 1120
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SACRAMENTS

Our sacramental program offers an approach that is family focused, parish based and school supported.

This approach is based on the understanding that parents, with the support of the school and parish, have the responsibility for passing on our Christian faith, values, traditions, beliefs and stories to the children of our parish community.

Older children are welcome to join the program, please enquire about preparation that may be required. For children attending non-Catholic schools there is a compulsory two year preparation for Sacraments.

Children need to have been baptised before receiving any of the other Sacraments. Receiving a Sacrament of Initiation involves becoming an active member of our Church community and there is a need for the children to understand the commitment they are making, as well as feel encouraged and supported by our Parish. It is expected that the children will regularly attend Sunday Mass

Family Focused

The Church teaches that the responsibility for initiating children into the Church through the preparation for sacraments belongs firstly with parents. The family is the basic unit of the faith community. Children are presented for initiation into the Church at baptism by their parents, whose role in fostering a child’s life of faith is so crucial that nothing else can replace it.

It is within the family that faith is received and nurtured and so the family is the primary focus for sacrament preparation. Times of sacrament preparation are moments of grace for nurturing the faith of the whole family and of the parish community.

Parish Based

The Church recognizes the importance of parents in their child’s faith formation. Therefore parents are encouraged to take a leading role in the preparation of their child/children for the reception of the Sacraments.

It is within the parish that children are welcomed, their initiation into the faith celebrated and their journey into Christian maturity nourished and sustained. The Parish provides the experience of belonging to a community of faith that is constant throughout the different phases of life, a place where all the initiated should feel at home. It is the parish, as the place of the Christian community, which co-ordinates the activities involved in preparing the child for the Sacraments.

Working with the family, the school, parish Ministers and clergy, the parish ensures that all requirements necessary to bring the children to the Sacraments are attended to in good time. In this way the parish will both nourish and be nourished by the faith of the children and their families.
School and PREP Supported

Catholic schools, by the nature of their mission and mandate, have a direct responsibility to support family and parish in the preparation of children to receive the sacraments.

In the same way, the Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) is designed to support you in providing this same preparation when your child is attending a non-Catholic school.

Always there is the underlying respect for the primary role of parents in the faith education of their children, while at the same time offering support to them in that role.

Both the school and the PREP program do this by providing knowledge and understanding through the religious education program and by providing an environment which witnesses to and teaches gospel values.

Baptism

When people are baptized into the church they enter into a relationship with the people of the church, the body of Christ. The Baptismal ceremony marks the beginning of their new life.

A person who is baptized is saying “Yes I want to be part of the community. I want to live a life faithful to Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit”. When a young child or an infant is baptized the parents and god parents make this commitment on their behalf.

Reconciliation

Forgiveness lies at the heart of our Christian faith. Jesus died that sins might be forgiven (Mt 26:28), and through the cross of Jesus, God reconciled us, “not holding our faults against us” (2Cor 5:19)

As with preparation for the other sacraments, it is the experience of the sacrament, in this case, the experience of forgiveness, that is central. The parent brings the child to this awareness. Within the unique relationship between parent and child, the sharing of this insight is particularly meaningful. The knowledge requirement is selective and simple: that God forgives me when I say I am sorry. It is the experience of forgiveness that is the focus.

First Eucharist

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic life. It embodies in itself the fullness of the Christian mystery. It is the climax of our initiation as Christians. Each time we celebrate it, we express and affirm the faith that we professed in Baptism and Confirmation.

This important starting point is built round the experience of entering into a new relationship with the Catholic community; not just a personal experience, but a family experience. A framework is being established which will enable further growth to take place in the future.

Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation completes Baptism. The process of preparing for Confirmation involves accepting Jesus’ invitation to “Come and see” (Jn 1:39). It summons children and their parents to join others on the spiritual journey that began at Baptism. It challenges them to listen more closely to the Spirit, received at Baptism, as they hear again Jesus’ message and the call to discipleship. It invites them to recall the meaning of their Baptism and to re-form attitudes and values in the light of their own story, the story of God in scripture and the church.
Registration Information

All Catholic school age children in our Parish are welcome to register whether they attend St Benedict’s Catholic School, any surrounding Catholic school or College or attend a State/Non-government school.

All families are required to attend an Enrolment/Commitment mass on the following weekend:

**Saturday, 12 March 2016 @ 6pm Mass**
**Or**
**Sunday, 13 March 2016 @ 9.30am Mass**

Please bring along the completed enrolment form with a copy of your child’s baptismal certificate and sacramental fee.

**Fees for 2015 are $40.00 per child or $70 per family**

Which Sacrament?

In the Archdiocese of Perth, children normally receive the Sacraments in primary school.

Parish Sacramental dates for 2016 are:

Year 3 – Reconciliation (Confession)
    Wednesdays, 20 July to 10 August @ 3.30pm-4.30pm

Year 4 – Eucharist (Holy Communion)
    Masses from 6 August to 28 August—Saturday @ 6pm & Sunday @ 9.30am
    (6 Families per mass)

Year 6/7 – Confirmation
    Friday, 2 September @ 7pm

Older children are welcome to join the program, please enquire about any preparation that may be required.

Contact Information

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Sacramental Coordinator

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Parish Office Hours:
Tuesday to Friday – 10am – 4.30pm