

Sacramental Journey: One step closer to God

The sacraments of Christian initiation- Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist- lay the foundation of every Christian life... The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life' (CCC 1212).

We have often heard about the saying "it's about the journey and not the destination". But with the hundreds of journeys that we travel as we grow on our spiritual life, how can you make that journey to the Sacraments count and be memorable for children who wish to get closer to God?

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." - Proverbs 22:6

The Sacramental Team of Infant Jesus, Morley, follows a program that aims for the journey of every child, towards the Sacraments of Eucharist, Confirmation, and Reconciliation to be a time to cherish and remember for the rest of their life.

"A family-focused, parish based, Catholic school and Parish Religious Education Program supported approach to the preparation and celebration of the sacraments" – Sacramental Policy for School-Aged Children, Archdiocese of Perth

At the beginning of each Sacrament Program, sacramental families and children at Infant Jesus Parish Morley, are encouraged to attend an enrolment Mass, followed by the commitment Mass. These moments are very special, as families are able to celebrate at Mass together where they are also welcomed and prayed for by the parish community.

Parents play an active and important role in their children's sacramental journey. The sacramental team supports the parents by organising Parents Information Meetings where they can grow in faith and in understanding of the meaning and implication of the Sacrament which their child is receiving. The Parents and Child Workshop is also held to give parents and children a chance to interact with each other. This workshop encourages faith sharing between parents and their children, and it relates the Sacrament to the daily life of the family.



Sacrament of Eucharist Parent Information Night 2016 with the resource speaker Fr Gregory Donovan

The Infant Jesus School and the Parish Religious Education Program ministry work hand in hand in supporting the Sacramental Program of the Parish by preparing the children for each sacrament using the mandated Religious Education Program.



Archbishop Costelloe with PREP Coordinator Sue Goodwin (far left) and Confirmation Retreat volunteers, Haydee Canoneo (left), Josephine Cabagyo (right) and Teresa Choo (far right)

A retreat for each Sacrament is also part of the formation program. The team always endeavours to make the Sacramental retreat a joyful and reflective experience for the children. To achieve this, the team has invited the 24/7 Youth Ministry which successfully facilitated the retreat. It was supported by the Infant Jesus school teachers and the PREP catechist teachers.

This year the Sacrament of Confirmation has been very special for the children and their families at Infant Jesus Parish Morley. During the Confirmation retreat, the children were visited by The Most Reverend Archbishop Timothy Costelloe and he interacted with the children, ensuring that they were all ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Archbishop was also the main celebrant of the Confirmation Masses that were held on the 10th of June 2017.



Archbishop Costelloe visiting the Confirmation candidates at Infant Jesus Parish Morley during the retreat held on the 9th of June 2017.



From L-R: Fr Tadgh Tierney, Infant Jesus School Principal Mr Paul Hille, Archbishop Costelloe, Infant Jesus Parish Priest Fr Sunny Abraham and Sacramental Coordinator Mrs. Faith Rico



Archbishop Costelloe anointing Ianluis Vicente during the Confirmation Mass at Infant Jesus Parish, Morley on 10th of June 2017 (Photo credit: Mayfair Photography)

With God's grace, love and the faith of parents and families, hard work of the school and PREP team, tireless effort of the Sacramental team and church staff, help and generosity of countless volunteers and continuous prayer and encouragement of the parish community, the Sacramental Program of Infant Jesus Parish Morley has been very successful since it started in 2008.

For more information about the Sacramental Program of Infant Jesus Parish, Morley please email Faith Rico- Sacramental Coordinator at ijisacramental@gmail.com or contact the parish office at 92768500.

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