

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Family Catechetics Newsletter

June 2017

Catechetics Office Staff

Josette De Sousa

Catechetics Teacher

Lisa Leahy

Catechetics Administrator

Thursdays 9434 1246

Other times by appointment only

Parish Secretary: Mrs Mary Gargan

Catechetics office email

cagbn@vic.chariot.net.au

Deanery Website:

www.diamondvalleydean ery.com

Postal Address:

Family Catechetics Coordinator,

St Thomas the Apostle Parish Centre, 251 Diamond Creek Road,

Greensborough North Vic 3088



Mass Times: Saturday 6:00pm Sunday 10:30am

Dear parents and families of the Catechetical Program, Here we are, almost there into winter time and four weeks away from

Here we are, almost there into winter time and four weeks away from the break up for the end of term 2 holidays. Time surely flies by!

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

In this coming month of June, we are going to be busy preparing our grade 3 children to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which is on $14^{\rm th}$ June at 7.30 pm. I request you all, to please keep these children in your prayers, during this important time in their lives.



I also take this opportunity to congratulate all the candidates and their parents for their whole hearted support and cooperation in getting prepared. We all know that parents are the primary educators and the greatest influence in the lives of their children. Hence, your role in getting them ready for First Reconciliation is of utmost importance. It is our hope, that this healing sacrament will bring them much comfort and solace, even in their later lives!

Once, the Sacrament of First Reconciliation has been received by our children, we shall immediately begin with the preparation for **First Holy Communion**.

As agreed by all at the last meeting, the date for First Holy Communion has been settled at Sunday November 26th at the 10.30am Mass.

Sacrament of Confirmation:

For the parents of all our lovely children, receiving Confirmation this year, here are a few important dates for your diary. Please make a

note of them, as soon as you can:

Confirmation Information night for parents: 5th September 2017, most likely at 7.30 pm **Confirmation Commitment mass:** 16th September 2017, at 6pm.

Rehearsal at St Patrick's Cathedral, in the city: 26th October 2017, from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. **Sacrament of Confirmation at St Patrick's Cathedral:** 29th October 2017, at 2.30 p.m.

If you have any queries or need any clarifications, do not hesitate to contact us, either by phone or in person. The catechetical office is generally attended to, on Thursdays. The telephone number is on the front of this newsletter.

Fees for 2017:

Parents are requested to kindly finalise any outstanding fee, or sacramental levies, for which invoices have been sent out to you. Your cooperation on this matter is greatly appreciated.

Significant feasts coming up this month:

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the feast of **Pentecost** is on 4th. June and I would encourage our children to be taken to church on this significant day, in the Christian calendar. In fact, Pentecost is considered the third most important holy day celebrated within the Church, with the first most important being Easter and the second being Christmas. It is considered to be the birthday of the Church because it was on this day that the Holy Spirit descended upon the Church and empowered the Apostles and the other disciples of Jesus to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world. In our everyday lives today, we too need the help of the Holy Spirit, just as the Apostles did, so many years ago. Life is about decisions and making choices. We have to make them every day. Many of them are trivial: do I walk or take the car? Some are average: which school do I send my child to, for example. A few are major: what to do with my life? Do I go down this career track? Do I believe? How do I practise my faith? The Holy Spirit helps us to decide well, clearly and confidently – especially in major matters of life. And in Confirmation,

the Holy Spirit makes us witnesses of Christ as he made the Apostles at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit strengthens us and helps us with the making of decisions

Another important day, this month is the **Feast of The Sacred Heart**. It is on 23rd June. May the Heart of Jesus always inflame our hearts so that we may be worthy of our Baptismal call to holiness. Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

This winter let us also spare a thought for those who are are less fortunate and doing it hard in the cold. Just as The Sacred Heart of Jesus is the font of mercy, love and compassion, let us also try to imitate these virtues in our daily life, by reaching out to them in any way tht we can.

Both, Lisa and I, wish you a happy and blessed month of June.

Regards,

Josette and Lisa

