



St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Family Catechetics Newsletter

February 2018

Catechetics Office Staff

Josette de Sousa
Catechetics Teacher

Lisa Leahy
Catechetics Administrator

Thursdays 9434 1246

**Other times by
appointment only**

**Parish Secretary: Mary
Gargan**

**Catechetics office
email:**
cagbn@vic.chariot.net.au

Deanery Website:
www.diamondvalleydeanery.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 and Sunday
10:30am

Dear Families,

Welcome to the families who are newly enrolled at this Program—we hope you will enjoy your time here in the St Thomas the Apostle Family Catechetics Program. And welcome back to all our returning families. Hopefully, you all have had a pleasant and relaxing holiday and are now ready for your back-to-school and Catechetics routines once again.



It is our hope that you have a great time here and on our part, we shall endeavour to give your children a happy experience in being part of our church community of St Thomas the Apostle.

As most of you will already know, this is a program that does ask for some commitment from you, parents/ grandparents, by way of your attendance at each catechism session with your child and also in helping him/her with the learning exercises allotted at the end of each session. This done, you will hopefully have an experience that enriches your life and that of your family together.

By now, I am hoping that all of you would have received a copy of the Sacramental Program for 2018 and also a separate sheet outlining all the meeting dates for this year, for you and your child. Please go through it and note down all the significant details in your calendars. In case you need another copy emailed to you, please do not hesitate to ask us.

So please would you finalize all your enrolment details, if you haven't already done so, as soon as possible? Also please ensure that your child is given a textbook and a folder/holder to place all their activity sheets and home work that will be given to them at each session. I hope to hand out both of the above, to each child at their first session here.

If you know of any family that might wish to enroll for 2018, it is not too late to do so. Please ask/email Lisa for an enrolment pack or give us their details and we will follow up on it.

This is a short term 1, with just 7 working Thursdays for all of us at Family Catechetics Program. However, it's going to be a busy time all the same. This year, on February 14th (Ash Wednesday, coinciding with the much commercialized Valentine's Day), begins the period of Lent for us, Catholics. This forty day period, which is generally a season of prayer and personal sacrifices, culminates with the joyous occasion of Easter, falling on 1st April this year. So during each of our sessions for this term, your children will learn and be prepared for the celebration of the Death and Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Now here are a few important reminders and dates for you to note for the coming weeks this term:

SACRAMENTAL DATES

Sacramental Event	Date	Who this involves
Blessing Masses	Weekend of the 17/18 of February	All sacramental families
General Faith Night	Monday 19th or Wednesday 21st of February	All sacramental families
Reconciliation Commitment Mass	Saturday 10th March, 6 pm	Reconciliation candidates from grade 3 and families
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Thursday 26th April, 7 pm	Reconciliation candidates from grade 3 and families

Weekend Masses at St Thomas the Apostle Parish are as follows:

Saturday at 6pm
Sunday at 10.30am

Parents, please note that the Blessing Masses and the General Faith Night are held in conjunction with the school and as such school families would be attending the same.

Lisa and I look forward to seeing you there and in general, to work together in partnership with you, all of this year

Regards,
 Josette de Souza and Lisa Leahy

P.S. Am also adding below, a letter from the Religion Coordinator of St Thomas the Apostle School (which I have made the necessary changes to), for your further information:

Dear Parents,

This year is a very exciting time in your child's faith journey, as they will be preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation. As part of a new initiative we will be introducing two new aspects to our Sacramental program, our General Faith Night and Blessing Masses.

The **General Faith Night** is aimed at building on our understanding of living sacramentally and how our faith is important to our everyday life. Each year the Faith Development Team will aim to provide a new experience for parents and invite a new speaker to facilitate the sessions. This year we are very lucky to be welcoming **Dr Michael Grace**, as the presenter. The evening promises to be engaging and a great way to begin the Sacramental program for 2018. As the **General Faith Night** is aimed at adult faith development, we ask that you attend the evening **without** your child (however if you are unable to arrange this, children may attend).

The General Faith Night will be held over two evenings, **Monday 19th of February and Wednesday 21st of February**, providing families with the option of selecting any one night that best suits them. Families will be asked to state their preference regarding the night that they intend to attend, at the catechetics session. The evening will commence at **7.00pm** on both nights and will be held at St Thomas the Apostle Parish Church.

In addition to the General Faith night we are introducing Blessing Masses for all children who are preparing to receive a Sacrament. This initiative is an opportunity for students and families to share in an Eucharistic celebration as they begin their preparation to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation. Students will be presented to the Parish so that they too can accompany them, on their Sacramental journey and support them in prayer. Families are asked to attend any one of the Parish Masses on the **weekend of 17/18 February, namely the 6 pm mass on Saturday evening or the 10.30 mass on Sunday morning.**

We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events.

Josette de Souza and Ana Amorin