

St Leonard's Church
Naremburn



St Philip Neri Church
Northbridge



St Thomas' Church
Willoughby



Catholic Parish of Lower North Shore

21st May 2010

Confirmation Information Pack

Dear Parents,

Confirmation is the next sacrament of initiation after Children's baptism. In the diocese of Broken Bay, this sacrament is generally celebrated when the child is in year 2 at school. The celebration for Naremburn and Northbridge parish communities is normally held in third term in St Leonard's Church, Naremburn. The celebration for the Willoughby community is normally held in third term in St Thomas' Church.

This information pack, including the attached enrolment form and parishioner information form, is prepared in May/June each year. It is distributed to all Year 2 students at St Philip Neri School Northbridge and St Thomas' School Willoughby and those attending catechist classes at Castle Cove, Northbridge and Willoughby Public Schools. It includes a letter outlining the process and key dates, an enrolment form for the sacrament, and a parishioner information form for family details and contact information.

Information packs are also available from June onward at the parish office, at the rear of the churches and by download from the website.

There are three forms – the enrolment form for the sacrament of confirmation, and the parishioner information form and the Confirmation Name and Sponsor Form. All are available and can be submitted online at the parish website www.lns.org.au

The first form is used to obtain information needed for the confirmation register and the preparation sessions. Please indicate if you are prepared to lead a group. This is not a difficult task and you will be well supported. We usually need one group leader for every six or seven families.

The second form is used to obtain up-to-date contact information and family details, as well as an invitation to participate in one or more aspects of parish community life. If you have provided this information previously, and the information hasn't changed, you do not need to provide it again. The contact information you provide – including phone, e-mail, and school / class information – will be used to facilitate communication during your child's sacramental preparation over the next two years.

Parish Office: 43 Donnelly Rd, Naremburn NSW 2065

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Could you please complete both these forms and return them to the parish office by 1st June 2010? Can you include payment with the forms or make payment at the parent meeting. Cheques should be made out to *Catholic Parish of Lower North Shore*. The third form is to nominate the candidate's confirmation name and sponsor. This information is required by the 27th July.

Additional information about the sacramental preparation process, the selection of a sponsor, and the selection of a confirmation name is provided below. We look forward to assisting you in your child's preparation for the sacrament of confirmation.

Kind regards,

Paul Mason
Pastoral Associate

Marie Harris
Sacramental Coordinator

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

All children in Year 2 or older, who have not made their Confirmation, are eligible to be confirmed in Broken Bay Diocese.

For those of you new to the Sacramental Preparation Process, here is a brief introduction. The Diocese of Broken Bay provides resources for four weeks of preparation prior to receiving each of the sacraments: Confirmation (held in third term), Reconciliation (held in first term the following year) and First Communion (held in second term the following year). Each week there are rituals for home, worksheets for home, small group sessions and rituals at the Sunday Mass. Details of the process, including a booklet for parents, are given at the Parents' Meeting. After the four week period there is a rehearsal and final address to the children by the parish priest.

With regards to the group sessions, one or more parents within each group will take the role of leader of the group. Leaders receive additional support in the form of a leaders' handbook. There is also a leaders' meeting prior to the sessions to provide materials for the group sessions and to show how to prepare the sessions.

Baptismal Certificate: A copy of your child's baptismal certificate needs to be forwarded or, if baptised at St Leonard's, St Philip Neri or St Thomas', the date of baptism noted on the enrolment form.

Lesson Sheets & Books: Session worksheets and booklets will be provided at the sessions. The leaders' books will be distributed to leaders at the leaders' meeting.

Confirmation name: A child can choose an additional name for confirmation, or be confirmed using their Christian name given at baptism. It often takes children some time to select a new confirmation name. If necessary, send the enrolment form without this information and advise your group leader of the name once the child has selected one. Some useful websites on saints' names are:

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

<http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm>

Sponsor: A sponsor is generally a person other than the child's parents, who is sixteen years or older and who has been baptised and received their Confirmation, Reconciliation and first Holy Communion. It is desirable that the sponsor be one of the godparents attending the child's Baptism.