



## Confirmation 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

18/19 August

This letter and timeline are intended for children in Year 6 or higher and who have been baptized and who have celebrated the Sacrament of Penance. It applies to families who reside within the parishes of Camden (including St Clare's) and The Oaks (including St Joseph the Worker).

To be part of the Confirmation programme, it will be necessary to be present at Mass each week from this weekend 22/23 August to collect the programme timeline and enrolment form.

Please be mindful that to comply with the Directives relating to the Corona Virus from the NSW Department of Health - it is necessary to register in advance your place at Mass each weekend either (a) by booking on-line through the parish website or (b) by phoning 4655 8797 during parish office hours.

According to the directives, the maximum number of people who are permitted in the church at one time is 100 plus one musician, one vocalist and those who serve on the sanctuary.

**MASSES:**           **Saturday Vigils:** 4:30 PM and 6:00 PM.  
                          **Sundays** 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12 Noon and 5:00 PM

Forms and books will not be distributed to those who have not registered for Mass. Because there is a limit of 100, Masses will become full very quickly. Best to book early in the week.

There will be no workshops this year. Parents and other family members and friends will need to assist the candidates to complete all the activity pages at home. The workbooks will need to be returned to myself or one of the attendants at Sunday Mass on 26/27 September.

If families have organized holidays and are away over any of the weekends during the programme, then Confirmation will need to be celebrated in another year. This year is quite different from any other. Lots of pressures, especially in terms of sanitation. There are normally about 200 children who celebrate Confirmation each year. Because of so many limitations, this year's number will be capped at 160.

Participation in the programme will require from parents the qualities of sacrifice, dedication, energy and a clear mind. The programme cannot work around recreational activities and holiday bookings.

Also, if parents are seriously concerned about the virus to the extent that there is anxiety about being present at Mass, then please do not enroll this year. Best to wait for another time. Clergy, secretarial personnel and assisting parishioners will be under considerable pressure already. For this year's programme it is not possible to accommodate the extenuating circumstances of any particular family.

For each Confirmation ceremony, the maximum number permitted for each family is five, including candidate and sponsor. With 20 families intended for each ceremony, the maximum number of 100 has been reached. Accordingly, consideration is now being undertaken to video record each Mass and uploading to the parish website. Viewing would then be available later in the week.

Families may wish to live-stream. Some ceremonies may be available for those who are interested. However, there would be an added cost of \$50 to each family for the live-streaming of "their" Mass. Enrolment forms and Timeline available this week at Masses. It's absolutely necessary to book in advance.

Sincerely

Father Michael Williams PP