

St Therese of Lisieux Catholic Parish

Conducted by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

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15th September 2017

-AN INVITATION- PREPARING TO CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION

Dear Parents and Carers,

A time for preparing our children to receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation is approaching. We have celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and presently are celebrating First Holy Communion with one group of children. Now we are ready to prepare another group of children for First Reconciliation. We have decided to celebrate this Sacrament this year so that the children have more time to focus on only two Sacraments, Confirmation and First Holy Communion next year. To be eligible and able to prepare for and receive a Sacrament, a child needs to be at the age of reason, seven years of age or older. You will be able to judge their readiness.

When parents present a child for baptism they commit to being the first educators of their child in the Catholic faith. I emphasise the primary place that you, parents and carers have in this because your teaching, example, spirit and influence is the foundation on which everything else in the children's spiritual formation and education is built. And at the heart of it all is family prayer and Sunday Mass. Again, I encourage you to pray regularly with your kids! Read the Bible stories about Jesus in children's version with them. And nurture your own personal relationship with God and your children will catch it.

Thus, as we enter this time of preparation for your child's First Reconciliation you will have the primary responsibility for preparing your child, and at a later time for Confirmation and First Holy Communion. Parents who have experienced preparing their children for the sacraments describe this opportunity as a privilege and a joy. Some delightedly said they learned more than their child.

St Therese's Parish has a Sacramental Team who assist parents to prepare their children. This dedicated Team, accompanies parents and their children throughout the preparation period. Together the parents and the Team guide the children through times of structured learning, opportunities for reflection and discussion, and moments of prayer.

With this letter, I warmly invite you and your child to take part in preparing to celebrate First Reconciliation. **An introductory session for parents and carers only will be held at the Parish Office, (the old convent) in the chapel, 24 Hopkins Street, Moonah, on Thursday 16th November at 7:00 pm.** During this introductory session the Sacramental Team will describe the meaning of the Sacrament, outline the process of preparing for First Reconciliation, answer your questions, and provide the opportunity for you to enrol your child. Please bring your child's Certificate of Baptism, a copy of which can be obtained from the parish of baptism if you do not have the original.

Following the introductory session there will be three preparation sessions for children and their parents. **The first session will be held on Sunday 19th November with the Presentation of the children to the Parish at 9.00 am Mass followed with a workshop at approx. 10.15 am in the Parish Centre; then Sunday 26th Nov, 9.00 am Mass followed with a workshop at approx. 10.15 am in the Parish Centre, and Sunday 3rd December, 9.00 am Mass followed with a workshop at approx. 10.15 am in the Parish Centre. First Reconciliation will be celebrated in the church on Thursday 7th December at 6.30 pm.**

I very much hope you will accept this invitation to participate in preparing your child to celebrate First Reconciliation. Please feel welcome to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Hanns MSC". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Fr Mark Hanns MSC, Parish Priest

Catholic Parish of St Therese of Lisieux, Moonah-Lutana



Cared for by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

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Registration Form - Preparing to Celebrate – First Reconciliation

(TO BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY PARENT/S)

(Reconciliation is normally held in Term 4 – annually – check Parish Bulletin for updates)

Child's Surname:

Child's Given Names:

Date of Birth:/...../..... **Age:**

Date of Baptism:/...../.....

Place of Baptism:

Child's School:

Current Grade:

Father's Surname:

Father's Given Names: Catholic? / Non Catholic?

Mobile:

Mother's Surname:

Mother's Maiden Surname:

Mother's Given Names: Catholic? / Non Catholic?

Mobile:

Family Address:

Phone (Home):

Email:

Parent's Signatures:

I would like to register my child in the parish program of preparation for celebrating First Reconciliation. I commit to participating fully in the program

Prior to celebrating First Reconciliation, a child must have been Baptised. A copy of the Certificate of Baptism for the child is required with this form.

Please return to the Parish Office, Ss Louis & Zelig Centre, 24 Hopkins Street, Moonah or post to PO Box 819, Moonah TAS 7009.