

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024

For 2024, the Capricorn Coast Catholic Parish will be using the **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** as we prepare children to celebrate the sacraments of initiation. The feedback and comments from the 2023 families was overwhelmingly positive, saying how much they learnt and enjoyed the journey with their children over this time.

The **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** is grounded in scripture and the liturgy of the Church, and framed by Maria Montessori's principles of education. In this approach the children and their parents hear the Gospel and reflect on the Liturgical moments through the use of sensorially rich materials. Adults and children alike respond to these proclamations of the mysteries in their own personal way with a variety of possible means.

An Atrium of the Good Shepherd is a place of community and worship rather than a classroom for academic study. It is more a retreat house or prayer room than a schoolroom. It is a place to be with and enjoy God, listen to the Word, and to pray. It is designed to reflect the beauty of creation and God's abiding love.

Those who come to the atrium are first presented with a work by the Catechist – they then use the materials and work by themselves each time they attend. The presentations are centred on the Holy Mass, Sacred Scripture, Sacraments and Prayer. This approach helps to lay the foundations of Faith of the Catholic Church. The children live the life of the Atrium, forming a relationship with Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Adults are often welcomed seasonally to retreat days or times.

The Parish will run a *10 week program* using this approach to prepare your children in readiness to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Children of catechetical age who have not been baptised may also participate in these sacramental preparations, as well as sessions particular to the preparation for baptism.

This will be a significant commitment for you and your child. It will be a commitment that reflects the importance and sacredness of the sacraments that they are getting ready to receive. Just as you wouldn't hesitate taking your child to training for football, netball or cricket, for something as significant and important as the sacraments of the Church a genuine and enthusiastic commitment is required.

Of course, the greatest way to assist the development of your child's faith and your own is to participate regularly in the Sunday Eucharist community and we would love to have you join us at any of the Masses offered in the parish.

The Sacraments will be celebrated with Bishop Michael McCarthy at Sacred Heart Church and all meetings will be at Sacred Heart Church.

We are looking forward to this great opportunity in 2024.
Merry Christmas and many blessings for the New Year.

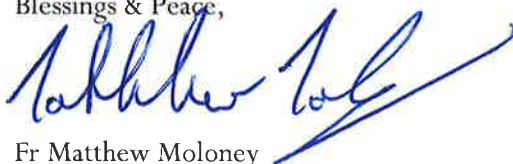
DATE CLAIMERS

An information evening on Wednesday 9th May at 6:00pm, 2024.

Confirmation Ceremony: Friday the 16th August, 2024.

First Holy Communion Ceremony: Sunday the 18th August, 2024.

Blessings & Peace,



Fr Matthew Moloney



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