

MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH CATHOLIC PARISH IVANHOE

Parish Centre & Office

2-6 Waverley Ave Ivanhoe

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Mary Immaculate Church
2-6 Waverley Ave Ivanhoe

St. Bernadette's Church
89 Bond St Ivanhoe

PARISH CATECHIST PROGRAM 2026

for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Communion

for Children **NOT ATTENDING** our Parish Schools

**PLEASE NOTE: The Sacrament of Confirmation will only be offered in odd years (2027, 2029 etc)
The Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion will be offered in even years**

Preparing children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation (*the Sacraments that complete our Christian Initiation which began in Baptism*) is primarily the responsibility of parents. This is a responsibility that all parents promise to undertake when their children are baptised as infants.

The most important part of your child's preparation for the Sacraments is their regular participation in the Sunday Mass and your own example of regular worship, prayer and good works. All other preparation is secondary to that obligation of worshipping together each week with the Christian family gathered together around the altar of God. Bringing your children to Mass regularly is an essential part of fulfilling the promises you made at your child's baptism to bring them up within the life of the Church.

God's love and presence are made real and celebrated in the Sacraments. Important times and experiences in our lives are celebrated and enlivened by God's presence. Each Sacrament signifies, in a particular way, the transforming love of God and the new life which Jesus Christ brings.

Your Parish is ready to assist you in the joyous responsibility of preparing your children for the Sacraments and, to this end, you and your children are invited to become fully involved in the ongoing life of your Parish Family in addition to the sacramental preparation program offered for your children.

Receiving the Sacraments is a '*sacramental journey*'. We do not receive the Sacraments just because we are in a certain grade at school, or have reached a certain age, or have completed a program of preparation. Rather it is a spiritual journey in which there needs to be moments of discernment about when we are ready to receive the Sacrament and this spiritual journey has little to do with age or school grade and more to do with our integration into the worshipping life of the parish community and our personal spiritual growth and prayer life. Discernment of when a child is ready for the sacrament needs to involve the Child, Parents, Catechist and Parish Priest.

TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

In order to register your child in any of our sacramental programs please fill out the enclosed registration form and return to Fr. Thanh after any Mass or to the Parish Office by the due date

IN REGISTERING YOU MUST COMMIT TO ATTENDING EVERY PART OF THE PROGRAM

Enrolments close

Reconciliation 16 February 2026

Communion 16 February 2026

Confirmation Offered again in 2027

Catechetical Fees (Cash or EFT)

1st Reconciliation \$50 First Communion \$80

Account Name: Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe

BSB: 083 347 Account No: 59005 4163

Reference: (*Sacrament + Name*)

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Age of Candidate

Normally Grade 3 and above.

All candidates must be Baptised and have evidence of their Baptism.

The Program

To assist you in preparing your child to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time we offer the following program:

Preparation Classes

All children will attend two catechist classes run in conjunction with the Saturday Vigil Mass @ 5.30pm at Mary Immaculate Church. Classes commence at **4.45pm** (45 minutes before Mass starts). Parents are asked to join their children in the class and at the Mass.

Children are asked to bring a pen or pencils to each session.

Day: **Saturdays** Time: **4.45pm – 6.15pm** (*Please ensure you are there for a 4.45pm start!*)

Dates: **February 28, March 14** (*no session on 7th March due to long weekend*).

Place: **Mary Immaculate Church 2-6 Waverley Ave Ivanhoe**

Enrolment Mass - Saturday 28 February

All children preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be enrolled as candidates at Mass on Saturday 28 February @ 5.30pm at Mary Immaculate Church.

Rehearsal - Saturday 14 March.

 There will be a short rehearsal and practice session for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation immediately after Mass on Saturday 14 March.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - Thursday 19 March

Candidates will celebrate their First Reconciliation on Thursday 19 March @ 6pm at Mary Immaculate Church

General Information

 **Catechetical Fees:** \$50 per child. Please include fee with the enrolment form.

See front page for payment method.

 **Dress:** Children should be dressed in clothing that marks the day as a special occasion. There is no set dress (neat casual is suitable) but please remember it is not a fashion parade.

 **Photography/Videos:** To respect the sacred nature of both the Liturgy and the Sacrament the use of mobile phones, cameras and videos during the Liturgical Celebration is not permitted.

Enrolments Close - 16 February 2026

Please fill out the enclosed registration form and return it, together with a copy of Baptismal Certificate, to Fr. Thanh after any Mass or to the Parish Office.

IN REGISTERING YOU MUST COMMIT TO ATTENDING EVERY PART OF THE PROGRAM

FIRST COMMUNION

Age of Candidate

Normally Grade 3 and above.

All candidates must be Baptised and have evidence of their Baptism.

Children must have first received the Sacrament of Reconciliation before their First Communion.

The Program

To assist you in preparing your child to celebrate their First Communion we offer the following program:

Preparation Classes

All children will attend six catechist classes run in conjunction with the Saturday Vigil Mass @ 5.30pm at Mary Immaculate Church. Classes commence at **4.45pm** (45 minutes before Mass starts). Parents are asked to join their children in the class and at the Mass.

Children are asked to bring a pen or pencils to each session.

Day: **Saturdays** Time: **4.45pm – 6.15pm** (*Please ensure you are there for a 4.45pm start!*)

Dates: **April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

Place: **Mary Immaculate Church** 2-6 Waverley Ave Ivanhoe

Enrolment Mass - Saturday 16 May

All children preparing for their First Communion will be enrolled as candidates at Mass on Saturday 16 May @ 5.30pm at Mary Immaculate Church

Rehearsal - Saturday 30 May

The final preparation session on Saturday 30 May will include a rehearsal and practice session for the children's First Communion immediately after 5.30pm Mass at Mary Immaculate Church

First Communion Mass - Saturday 13 June

Candidates will celebrate their First Communion on Saturday 13 June 5.30pm at Mary Immaculate Church

General Information

 **Catechetical Fees:** \$80 per child. Please include fee with the enrolment form.

See front page for payment method.

 **Dress:** Children should be dressed in clothing that marks the day as a special occasion. There is no set dress (neat casual is suitable) but please remember it is not a fashion parade.

 **Photography/Videos:** To respect the sacred nature of both the Liturgy and the Sacrament the use of mobile phones, cameras and videos during the Liturgical Celebration is not permitted.

Enrolments Close - 16 February 2026

Please fill out the enclosed registration form and return it, together with a copy of Baptismal Certificate, to Fr. Thanh after any Mass or to the Parish Office.

IN REGISTERING YOU MUST COMMIT TO ATTENDING EVERY PART OF THE PROGRAM

CONFIRMATION

**The Sacrament of Confirmation will
only be offered in odd years (2027, 2029 etc)**

Age of Candidate

Normally Grade 5 and above.

All candidates must be Baptised and have evidence of their Baptism.

Children must have first received the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Mary Mother of the Church Catholic Parish Ivanhoe

REGISTRATION FOR PARISH SACRAMENTAL CATECHIST PROGRAM

RECONCILIATION

Child's Christian Names		Surname	
Address			
Date of Birth		School	
Age		School Level (Year)	
Please attach a copy of Baptism Certificate to this form	Date of Baptism		
	Church of Baptism & Address		
Mother's Name			
Father's Name			
Email Address			
Phone	Home _____ <i>For emergency contact:</i> Mother: Work hours _____ Mobile _____ Father: Work hours _____ Mobile _____		
Church where you attend Mass			
Confidential Information			
Permission given for any photos taken to be used in Parish web site or newsletters ☐ Permission not given ☐ <i>If permission is not given children cannot be included in group photos taken at the ceremony.</i>			
Any food allergies _____ Anaphylaxis ☐ EpiPen Available ☐			
In the event of accident or illness during any of the Sacramental Preparations run by the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe, I authorise the obtaining on my behalf of such medical assistance as my child shall require. I accept all responsibility for payment of any expenses thus incurred.			
			_____ <i>Signature of parent or guardian</i>
<u>Catechetical Fee:</u> \$50 per child for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. (Cash or EFT) Account Name: Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe BSB: 083 347 Account No: 59005 4163 Reference: (Sacrament + Name)			

Please return this form together with a copy of your Baptismal Certificate & catechetical fees, to Fr. Thanh after any Mass or to the Parish Office - Before 16 February 2026

Mary Mother of the Church Catholic Parish Ivanhoe

REGISTRATION FOR PARISH SACRAMENTAL CATECHIST PROGRAM

FIRST COMMUNION

Child's Christian Names		Surname	
Address			
Date of Birth		School	
Age		School Level (Year)	
Please attach a copy of Baptism Certificate to this form	Date of Baptism		
	Church of Baptism & Address		
<i>Please note that children preparing for First Communion must have already completed their First Reconciliation</i>			
Mother's Name			
Father's Name			
Email Address			
Phone	Home _____ For emergency contact: Mother: Work hours _____ Mobile _____ Father: Work hours _____ Mobile _____		
Church where you attend Mass			
Confidential Information			
Permission given for any photos taken to be used in Parish web site or newsletters ☐ Permission not given ☐ <i>If permission is not given children cannot be included in group photos taken at the ceremony.</i>			
Any food allergies _____ Anaphylaxis ☐ EpiPen Available ☐			
In the event of accident or illness during any of the Sacramental Preparations run by the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe, I authorise the obtaining on my behalf of such medical assistance as my child shall require. I accept all responsibility for payment of any expenses thus incurred.			
_____ <i>Signature of parent or guardian</i>			
<u>Catechetical Fee:</u> \$80 per child for the Sacrament of First Communion (Cash or EFT) Account Name: Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe BSB: 083 347 Account No: 59005 4163 Reference: (Sacrament + Name)			

Please return this form together with a copy of your Baptismal Certificate & catechetical fees, to Fr. Thanh after any Mass or to the Parish Office - Before 16 February 2026