



ST. LUKE'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Capalaba - Sheldon - Mt Cotton -
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Fr Peter McCarthy PP

SACRAMENTAL GUIDELINES:

The Parish Guidelines are based on the Brisbane Archdiocesan Sacramental Policy. They are provided as a guide for people sharing in the Sacramental life of the Church, which is expressed in the life of St Luke's Catholic Parish.

People are initiated into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. The regular celebration of Eucharist is the summit and source of Parish life. The Sacramental life of the Parish also includes the celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Marriage and Anointing of the Sick.

Adult Initiation into the Catholic Church is through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) Program. They are supported by the Parish Community generally, and more specifically by a sponsor and Catechist. Parish rituals celebrate the stages of this Initiation. It is expected that the individual be a member of a Faith Sharing Group and become involved in the life of the Community. These Candidates are welcomed into the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism (if not previously Baptised), Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Infant Baptism: Infants are welcomed into the Catholic Church initially through the Sacrament of Baptism. Parents who wish to have their child Baptised, are asked to attend a Baptism Preparation Night. As it is the parents who have the privilege and responsibility of raising their child in the Faith of the Church, it is expected that their lives bear witness to this Faith, and that they continue the commitment to their child's Faith development. The child's Faith will also be nurtured through the Community's Faith life. One strong expression of Faith by the parents is their willingness to participate in the life of the Parish.

Confirmation & Eucharist: Children who are baptised as infants may be considered eligible for confirmation and first reception of Eucharist from about the age of seven years. Confirmation is celebrated together with, or just prior to, the first reception of Eucharist. The sacramental celebration is prepared for within a parish program that involves at least child and parents. When readiness for the sacraments has been determined, each child is enrolled in the parish program for sacramental preparation. Each child is expected to be receiving on-going catechesis both before and after the time of celebrating the sacraments.

Reconciliation: The opportunity for the celebration of sacramental reconciliation precedes the first reception of Eucharist. At this stage, children will normally be introduced to the sacrament of penance through the communal (2nd) rite in a simplified form. The principle parish program relating to the sacrament of penance will take place for those who are about ten years of age to prepare them for the celebration of the individual (1st) rite of reconciliation. Greater pastoral flexibility will be required to cater for those who have an intellectual disability or other special needs.

Anointing of the Sick acknowledges the continuation of Christ's healing ministry. It is celebrated with those whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age. It is a Sacrament which is not exclusively for people who are at the point of death.

The regular reception of communion is also available for those who are sick, yet unable to attend the celebration of the Eucharist. Communion to the Sick can be organized through the Parish Priest.

Marriage is the Sacramental union of man and woman in a covenant of love. In this Sacrament, married Christians signify and share in the mystery of that unity and fruitful love which exists between Christ and His Church. They help each other to attain holiness in their married life, and in the rearing and education of their children. All couples intending to be married at St Luke's Church must undertake some form of Marriage Preparation. By undertaking Marriage Preparation, couples will come to a better understanding of themselves, their partner and their relationship. The Parish Priest will happily explain the various options available including: Engaged Encounter, Centacare, Foccus and Before We Say Forever. (Please note that six months notice is to be given prior to the wedding date).

Holy Orders: Men are Ordained to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ after years (approximately seven) of formation, study and prayer. They are Ordained by the Archbishop to serve the people of God. In the role of servant leader, the Priest provides the appropriate and fulsome celebration of the Sacraments and the Proclamation of the Word. As the shepherd of the local Church, the Priest is responsible for overseeing the life of the Parish Community and the building up of the Kingdom of God. He shares in the lives of his Parishioners at Sacramental times, celebrating key moments of their lives as well as sharing in their everyday experiences. This occurs within the community with the support of the community. The Church continues to need people in the Ministerial Priesthood. If any Parishioners are interested in this Ministry, feel free to discuss it further with the Parish Priest.