

## Practical Models

There is a range of specified models that honour the partnerships of family-parish-school. Each exemplifies best practice and allows flexibility in structuring sacramental catechesis in the local parish community. Each can be adapted accordingly to suit the local context.

The models are:

- ◇ Workshop Focussed
- ◇ Home Group Focussed
- ◇ Weekly Session Focussed
- ◇ Sunday Liturgy Focussed
- ◇ Parish Cluster Focussed

## Support & Resources

Support for the selection of appropriate resources and programs is available from:

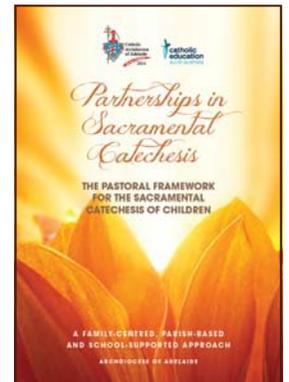
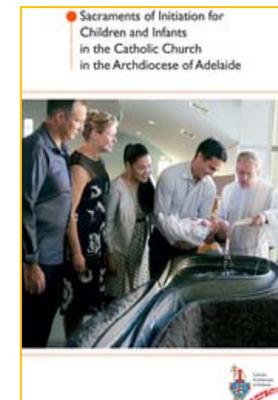
- ◆ **Family & Parish Based Catechesis Office**  
ph: 83016110 or 83016195  
[www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/schools/catholic-education-sa/family-and-parish-based-catechesis](http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/schools/catholic-education-sa/family-and-parish-based-catechesis)
- ◆ **Office for Worship**  
ph: 81527806  
E: [worship@ow.adelaide.catholic.org.au](mailto:worship@ow.adelaide.catholic.org.au)



## Our Parish Details

## Celebrating Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion in the Adelaide Archdiocese

This pamphlet provides an overview of two important documents regarding the Christian initiation of children and infants launched recently in the Archdiocese of Adelaide.



*'The Sacraments of Initiation ...mark the commitment of both the individual and the family to the lifelong process....'*

(Sacraments of Initiation into the Catholic Church for Children and Infants in the Archdiocese of Adelaide, 2014, para. 26)

# The Christian Community Welcomes You

At our Baptism we are claimed for Christ and assume the name *Christian*. Our Christian initiation continues with Confirmation and culminates with the full celebration of the Eucharist through receiving Holy Communion with the rest of the Christian community at Sunday Eucharist, which is the constant means of our ongoing Christian commitment.

*The role of parents and godparents is of the highest importance, but the whole community shares the responsibility for developing and guarding the grace given at Baptism.*

## What do Parents need to know and do?

**Contact** the parish even before the baby is born.

**Select** godparent(s) who are themselves fully initiated Catholics who can support you in the faith formation of your child.

**Attend** the preparation meetings offered by the parish prior to the baptism and the follow-up meeting after the baptism.

**Provide** an environment in the home that will nurture the faith of your child – through prayer, stories, example of how to live Gospel values.

**Bring** the children to share regularly in Sunday Mass.

## Confirmation and First Holy Communion

Parishes and schools work together to provide formal programs to prepare children to celebrate these sacraments, with the support of parents. The way it is done will vary from parish to parish (see back panel).

## What is Involved?

**Parents** enrol their child(ren) in the parish program.

**Children** and parents participate in the gatherings, workshops and prayer-times arranged by the parish and school.

**The celebration** of sacraments is not tied to any particular age. When they are ready, children baptised as infants will celebrate Confirmation – normally conferred by the Archbishop – either during Sunday Mass or outside of Mass, on a weeknight, in their parish.

**If Confirmation** takes place during Mass, then First Holy Communion will be celebrated at that Mass. If Confirmation is celebrated on a weekday, First Communion will take place at the following Sunday Eucharist in the parish.

**Children** with disabilities are encouraged to participate according to their capacity, and are welcome in the parish preparation.

**If possible**, the godparent at Baptism should also be the Sponsor for Confirmation. Sponsors should be at least 16 years old and themselves be baptised, confirmed and full participants in the life of the faith community.

**Children of school age** who were not baptised as infants and now seek Baptism, will be fully initiated with the three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion within the one ceremony, in the parish to which they belong.

## We Model our lives on Jesus

The focus of both the Framework and the policy is on God's love and hunger for each person and their happiness. People start the journey into the church from many different places which calls for sensitivity to the particular circumstances people find themselves in, with flexibility and love, with respect, freedom and hospitality.. just as Jesus did.

## Building Partnerships

### - A Call to Community

**Sacramental Catechesis** is a partnership of the family, parish and school that calls us to develop and build on relationships.

**In this preparation** for the sacraments of initiation we see it as family-centred, parish-based and school-supported. The family is the first educator in the faith through which the desires of the child are nurtured through which faith connects to life experiences. The parish is the local Catholic community which welcomes and supports families in the ongoing faith development by offering an immersion into the community into which the child is being initiated. The Catholic school contributes to the evangelising mission of the Church by working together with families and parish to provide Sacramental Catechesis.

