2018

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Live Your

Christian Life

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Live Your Christian Life is the program of preparation for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation.

Live Your Christian Life is an experience-based sacramental program emanating from the assertion that participation in the ongoing life of the Christian community, especially in the celebration of Sunday Mass, is a fundamental aspect of the preparation for First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. Children learn well when they participate fully, consciously and actively in the life of the Christian community.

Live Your Christian Life seeks to offer children a holistic experience as they prepare for their wonderful encounters with God through the Sacraments of the Church.

Live Your Christian Life requires families to participate in their child’s faith development and to participate in this focused time of preparation for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation.

Live Your Christian Life hopes to enliven the parish community as we all walk along side and rejoice with the children, experiencing together this wonderful encounter with God.

**How does the program work?**

Families proceed through the suggested activities, ticking them off as they are completed. Some activities will be “one-offs” and some you will wish to share many times on an ongoing basis after the reception of the Sacraments.

**When will my child receive the Sacraments?**

Parents/guardians, as the first educators and teachers of faith for your children, are given the responsibility of deciding when your children are adequately prepared for the Sacraments. The activities in this program are offered as a guide. Children who undertake the program in full will be deemed to be adequately prepared for their Sacraments. It is anticipated that the program will be modified to suit local circumstances and family needs, but that it not be diluted. (It may be that a visit to Vinnies is unreasonably difficult to organize so something else will suffice. On the other hand, 10 Sunday Masses does not mean 6!)

It is envisaged that the children will receive their Sacraments one at a time through the year, rather than in a large group. A higher priority is given to each child being well prepared for a special encounter with God, than on joining in a group celebration on a pre-determined date, which would inevitably include some children who have not completed their program of preparation.

When your child is ready for his or her sacraments, having completed the program and ticked all of the boxes, come and book a date.

**School Support**

Where possible the parish schools will support their particular communities by giving focused attention to the Sacraments of the Church during the time of your child’s preparation.

**Sunday Mass**

Sunday Mass is the source and summit of our Christian experience. Your child will be required to attend Sunday Mass on a minimum of ten occasions during his or her preparation for the Sacraments.

**Ministries**

When we come to Mass we typically participate in the ministries of the Church and your child is invited to do the same. Your child may be comfortable to carry forward the bread and wine with a friend, or to take up the collection, or to read the prayers of the faithful. Your Parish Supporters will be able to help you with this task.

**Parish Social Life**

There will be parish social events taking place during your child’s preparation. You will be required to attend a couple of these. Perhaps it’s a cuppa after Mass or an event organszed by the Passionist Family Group if your parish has one. It’s an opportunity for all parishioners to meet and encourage your child.

**Personal / Family Prayer**

Regular prayer is an important facet of Christian life. Your child will be encouraged to pray regularly at home, both with the family and alone. Live your Christian Life provides a number of prayers for you to pray with your child. Meal and bed times seem to be helpful times to stop to pray. The prayers may be drawn from those provided or written by your child.

**One Bread Broken for All / One Cup Poured Out for Many**

At the last supper Jesus took bread and broke it, dividing it among those present. Similarly the disciples drank from the one cup. We do this at Sunday Mass. Encouragement is given to do this at home, to purchase unsliced loaves of bread that can be broken and shared with the family, perhaps during special family celebrations. Similarly, have a jug on the table to be poured and shared with those present. Tell the story of Jesus breaking the bread and pouring the wine.

**I’m Sorry / You’re Forgiven - Reconciliation**

How often do you deliberately and expressly say to your child, “I forgive you?” If children are to understand, “I forgive you,” as coming from God, hopefully it won’t be the first time your child has heard the words!

* Be particularly attentive to helping your child to understand and feel forgiveness in his or her life.
* Talk about how as a family you move on from hurts into forgiveness and peace.
* Be able to identify (and tick the boxes) of six times when your child hears the words “I forgive you” during his or her time of preparation.

**Door Knobs - Confirmation**

There are 7 Gifts and 12 Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Discuss with your child which of those is he or she needing today or this week, or perhaps which of these is your child or family experiencing at this time. Print that particular gift (eg. Wisdom) on the label provided and hang it in a prominent place, perhaps on the bedroom door or the fridge door. Over the coming days with your child you might, for example, ask God earnestly for *courage* or praise God for the *joy* your family is experiencing. In this way the outpouring of the Spirit can be experienced and understood as your child prepares for the outpouring of the Spirit at Confirmation. Continue this after Confirmation.

A second possibility is that all of the gifts and fruits of the Spirit are displayed in the church and the children take a different one home each week. Choose at least ten on which to focus over the time of preparation.

**The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgement, Courage, Knowledge, Reverence, Wonder and awe in God’s presence

**The Fruits of the Holy Spirit**

Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self Control, Chastity

**Service to the Poor**

Jesus showed a particular love for the poor and oppressed. As Catholic people we share his disposition. Arrange for your child to assist the poor in at least two practical ways, not including the donation of money. eg. visit to Vinnies to help sort clothing.

**Project Compassion**

Of course we also give money for the service of the poor. *Project Compassion* is an iconic annual Catholic Fundraising effort for the service of the poor. A box is provided for your generosity. It is envisaged that money given will be from the child’s pocket rather than that of the parents. As is ever the case with Caritas collections, the amount given will be anonymous.

**Prayers before Meals**

Bless us Oh Lord, and these thy gifts, which through your bounty we are about to receive, through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

For what we are about to receive, may the lord make us truly thankful. And may we always be mindful of the needs of others. Amen.

O God, bless us. Bless our food and our family. Bless those who won’t eat as well as us today. Amen.

**Prayers before Bed**

O Jesus, help me to rest without a worry and sleep soundly. Amen

(Proverbs 3:24)

Jesus you said, “Come to a quiet place and get some rest.”

O Jesus, take me to that quiet restful place. Amen.

(Mark 6:31)

Jesus, today

An amazing thing happened …

A sad thing happened …

An exciting thing happened …

Good night now. Amen.

✂

Example: Wisdom

**The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgement, Courage, Knowledge, Reverence, Wonder and awe in God’s presence

**The Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit**

Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self Control, Chastity

Sunday Mass 🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏

Ministries at Mass eg. Offertory 🞏🞏

Parish Social Event 🞏🞏

Prayer Before Meals 🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏

Prayer Before Bed 🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏

One Bread Broken For All 🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏

One Cup Poured Out for Many 🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏

I’m Sorry / You’re Forgiven 🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏🞏

Door Knobs

🞏 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 🞏 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 🞏 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

🞏 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 🞏 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 🞏 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

🞏 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 🞏 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 🞏 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

🞏 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Service to the Poor 🞏🞏

Project Compassion Box 🞏

**✂**

**Baptism / Confirmation Details**

**Name of Child Age in Years \_\_**

Names of Parents

My child was baptized at St Mary’s Ararat Yes / No

My child was baptized elsewhere. Baptism certificate provided? Yes/No

Confirmation Name (saint’s name)

Name of Sponsor

Date of Eucharist / Confirmation

*Program prepared by Fr Andrew Hayes PP*

*Diocese of Ballarat*