



### **Parish Sacramental Policy 2022/3**

1. The restructuring of the Archdiocese
2. Celebrating one Sacrament each year

#### **The Restructuring of the Archdiocese**

As you know the Archbishop is in a process of restructuring the Archdiocese. Parishes will be very different in the future. In the eastern region we are moving from 56 parishes to 14 centres of mission. Some parishes will close, others will amalgamate. Many parishes will no longer have a resident priest as priests will live in a centralized location. The same will occur with parish offices and staffing. This move towards centralization will also have a major effect on how Sacraments will be celebrated. With the future amalgamation of parishes the number of parish schools will increase, and no priest can be the spiritual or sacramental leader of three to six primary catholic parish schools to say nothing of the secondary colleges.

In preparing for these changes all sacramental programmes in Sacred Heart Parish are 'Parish Based Programmes'. In time we may join with other parishes if forming a joint parish based sacramental programme. With this new model, without a resident priest, it is imperative that families are personally involved in the passing on of the faith to their children. If not, then the connection to the sacred is weakened. In the past and until recently, many non-practicing Catholics left it up to their local parish school and their local priest, to pass on the faith to their children. This new model will involve parish participation as central to any sacramental programme

#### **The Celebration of one Sacrament each year.**

Our Parish Sacramental Programme does not differentiate as to which school your child attends systemic, government or private schools. It is 'Belonging' to a worshipping community and regularly attending Mass which defines a parishioner. To ensure the viability of Sacred Heart Parish we need your assistance. To prepare your child adequately we need to ensure they are properly and spiritually aware in their knowledge of each Sacrament. Consequently our parish policy limits the reception of the Sacraments to one Sacrament per year. This is to ensure that your child can truly focus on the Sacrament they wish to receive. It allows for adequate preparation by instilling in your child the importance of each Sacrament. Each Sacrament demands special attention so its richness can be reflected upon, absorbed, and celebrated in a spiritual manner befitting its true sacred nature.

Sincerely  
Fr. John Madden  
Parish Priest