

# BECOMING CATHOLIC CONFIRMATION

A practical guide for families



KATHY HORAN

**BECOMING CATHOLIC**



# *Confirmation*

**A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR FAMILIES**

**Kathy Horan**

Published in Australia by  
Garratt Publishing  
32 Glenvale Crescent  
Mulgrave, VIC 3170  
[www.garrattpublishing.com.au](http://www.garrattpublishing.com.au)

Becoming Catholic: Confirmation  
Third Edition

Text copyright © Kathy Horan 2022

Text copyright for activities and journalling © Tess Harford 2022

All rights reserved. Except as provided by the Australian copyright law, no part of this book may be reproduced in any way without permission in writing from the publisher.

Design and typesetting by Sarah Mawer

Cover Design by Jane Christensen

Images copyright © iStock

9781922484048

Printed in China by Tingleman

Scripture quotations are drawn from the *New Revised Standard Version of the Bible*, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.

For details of the Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur, please check the Garratt Publishing website.  
[www.garrattpublishing.com.au](http://www.garrattpublishing.com.au)

Cataloguing in Publication information for this title is available from the National Library of Australia.  
[www.nla.gov.au](http://www.nla.gov.au)

The author and publisher gratefully acknowledge the permission granted to reproduce the copyright material in this book. Every effort has been made to trace copyright holders and to obtain their permission for the use of copyright material.

The publisher apologises for any errors or omissions in the above list and would be grateful if notified of any corrections that should be incorporated in future reprints or editions of this book.

## About the Authors



Kathy Horan has worked extensively in a range of leadership roles within Catholic Education in South Australia. These roles include RE coordinator in parish schools, Deputy Principal and RE consultant in the

Adelaide Archdiocese and Diocese of Port Pirie. Kathy holds Master Degrees in Theology and Educational Leadership. A focus of her work is family-based catechesis, particularly in the role of sacramental preparation.

Kathy is currently working in the Adelaide Archdiocese as Coordinator of the RCIA, supporting parish Baptism teams and adult Confirmation groups. She is also working with the Ministry Formation program to support students seeking pathways into pastoral ministry within the Archdiocese.



Tess Harford is an experienced educator who has worked in Catholic Education SA for 35 years. Tess's roles include classroom teacher, RE Coordinator and various

senior leadership positions. She brings a wealth of practical catechetical experience and an enthusiasm for developing children's spiritual faith through engaging activities and journalling prompts in this series.



# Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	2–5
Frequently Asked Questions	6–7
Symbols Of Christian Life	8–9
How To Use This Book	10
 <i>Section 1: Preparing</i>	11
Topic 1: Jesus is baptised – the journey begins	12–20
 <i>Section 2: Celebrating</i>	21
Topic 1: The Church – a community of disciples	22–31
Topic 2: Pentecost – the shape of Confirmation	32–40
 <i>Section 3: Living</i>	41
Topic 1: Living as Spirit-filled disciples	42–51
Topic 2: Called to be missionary disciples	52–60
 Prayers from our Christian Tradition	61–62



# Introduction

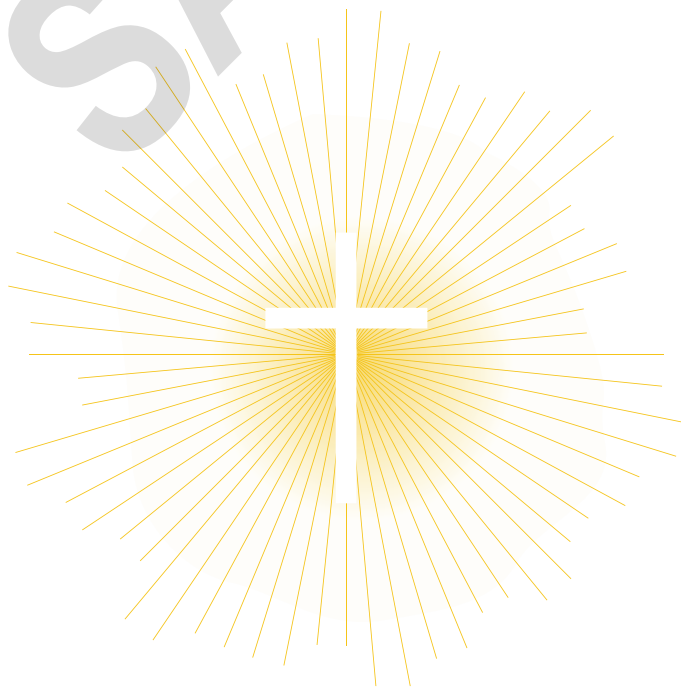
---

This book will support you in the religious formation of your children, particularly as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Church teaches that Confirmation confirms Baptism, and so Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist together complete the process of initiation into the Catholic community.

This process invites us into a deeper way of relating to God, to Jesus, to one another, and to becoming more actively involved in the life of the community through the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit.

For the Catholic family, it is our faith in God and our relationship with this loving God that provide us with a guide to living our lives in accordance with Jesus' mission.



# How to use this book

This book is designed for parents and children to work together and enjoy the connection as you travel together on your faith journey towards celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation.

## Journey themes for the Sacrament of Confirmation

There are three main sections that link to parts of your child's sacramental journey.

Each main theme explains why we celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, with the main emphasis on **experiences, values and connections**.

**Journalling and activity pages** have been added for you to work together with your child so that you will have a deeper understanding of the faith journey.



### VALUES

The Christian story is the 'bigger family story'. Our shared family story in the Catholic community is grounded in the story of Jesus and the values from his message.



### EXPERIENCE

This provides some ways of thinking about the theme and sharing some reflections and family memories or stories about daily family experiences with your children. It may also be a way for families to do things together to strengthen family life.



### CONNECTION

Make it a ritual to spend a few moments together reflecting on the day. It may take the form of having each family member naming something good about the day. Gratitude is always a winner!

This will help your child to understand the importance of prayer and of developing a personal relationship with Jesus.



### ACTIVITIES

Suggestions are provided as family activities to make connections between what we do and what we have learned together about the theme. This is an excellent way to remain connected to your child's journey.



### JOURNALLING

This section is an opportunity for children to be imaginative and to write or draw freely about what they are thinking about and feeling. It gives parents a chance to understand what their children might be experiencing and make room for dialogue.



# Section 1:

# Preparing





# Section 1: Preparing



START HERE

The Sacrament of Confirmation confirms the person who has been baptised; and at Confirmation, candidates receive the gift of the Spirit of Jesus. When we are confirmed, we are drawn more deeply into the mission of Jesus as his disciple.

Each theme draws on the experience of the Christian community through sharing our family story and leading us into a reflection on what this community means for us today.

## Topic 1: Jesus is baptised – the journey begins



### VALUES – JESUS IS BAPTISED

When Jesus was baptised in the Jordan, he saw the heavens torn open and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven:

‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’ (Mark 1:10-11)



At his Baptism in the Jordan, God’s Spirit came upon Jesus and enabled him to begin doing God’s work.

When we are baptised, we become members of the Christian community and we learn to share in Jesus’ mission.

The Sacrament of Baptism is where the community welcomes new members, prays for them, and supports them. For parents, this means they wish to share their faith so that their child can learn about being part of the community and coming to know and follow Jesus’ way.



### PARENT ACTION:

With your children, look back at any videos or photos you might have of their Baptism day. Share with them the joy you felt when they became members of the Church.








## Activity 1: God loves you

When Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan, he knew God deeply loved him and had plans for him.



Write or draw the ways in which your parents tell you and show you they love you. 

SAMPLE

How does this make you feel?



---

---

---

---



Remember: to let God speak to your heart.