



Blessed John XXIII Parish
Glenwood – Stanhope Gardens.
P.O Box 23. Stanhope Gardens 2768

*Pastoral Letter from Fr. Kevin Walsh on the occasion of the Children's
Catechesis Morning of the Feast of the Ascension.*

24th May 2009.

Dear One and All,

As the time for our Children's Confirmation draws near, it is also a reminder to us of what it means to be a Confirmed Catholic.

Confirmation is related to Baptism in a big way, and is also one of the three Sacraments along the pathway to full initiation into the Community, which happens at First Eucharist (First Holy communion). In some Rites of the Christian Church, Confirmation is administered at Baptism, while in some other Dioceses throughout the World; Confirmation is sometimes conferred later in life, often during the teen years. In our Diocese, it takes place in early Primary School, prior to 1st Eucharist.

Here in the Diocese of Parramatta, Confirmation is conferred either by Bishop Kevin Manning, or one of his Episcopal Vicars. This year, Fr. Ron Mc Farlane PP, EV will confer the Sacrament on June 10, 11 and 17 at 7.30PM.

When we were Baptised, our Parents and God Parents spoke up for us, and responded with **I DO** in reply to the responsibilities for forming us in the Christian Faith, and responding to the Creed. At Confirmation, our Children will speak up for themselves, and profess **I DO** at the Creed.

The Holy Oil used at Confirmation is Chrism. This oil is consecrated by the Bishop of the Diocese during Holy Week each year, and then distributed to the Parish Communities, for use at Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination and Dedication of an Altar and Church. In Confirmation, this Holy Oil is an external reminder of the latent, and growing Gifts of the Holy Spirit within the child, and the aroma of the Oil, is symbolic of the Holy Spirit's Breath! In short, Confirmation is the Child's confirming of their Baptism, and being sealed by the Holy Spirit by means of being anointed by the Bishop or his Vicar.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, let us pray for our Children who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, that they, with their parents and guardians may grow strong in the Holy Spirit's giftedness and continue to be vibrant people within our weekly Eucharistic Community Life.

God Bless you, and you're Families,

Fr. Kevin Walsh, Adm