

# *Building Families of Faith* - Archdiocese of Wellington



## A PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

*"Faith grows when it is lived and shaped by love. That is why our families, our homes, are true domestic churches. They are the right place for faith to become life, and life to grow in faith."*

*Pope Francis*



## TIMELINE

The programme begins with a short orientation session introducing parents of new entrants to the school's Catholic Character. Parents are then invited to participate in two evening sessions per year, covering a total of six sessions over Years 1, 2 and 3. In Year 4, children typically complete their Sacraments of Initiation (Confirmation and First Eucharist) as well as First Reconciliation. Parents are offered a series of formation sessions which will give them the tools to prepare their children for the reception of the Sacraments.

## SESSION 1

### DOES FAITH MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

This session looks at how our Catholic faith helps our children to live whole and happy lives, growing in the knowledge that they belong and developing a resilient spirit. It highlights the core message of God's unconditional love for us, and emphasises the fact that faith is caught rather than taught.

## SESSION 2

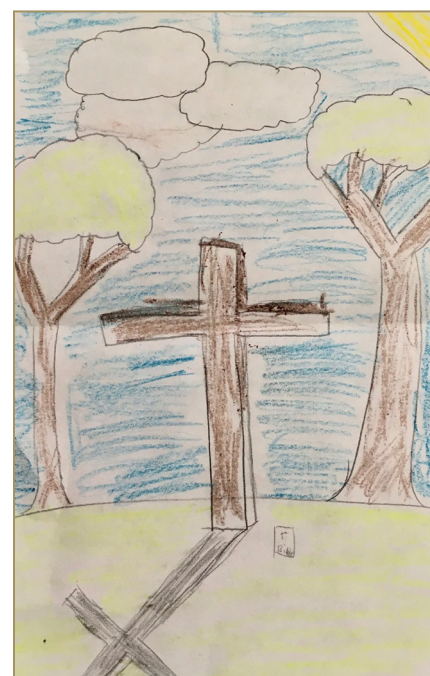
### IMAGINING GOD: the Father

We all have our own image of who God is and what God is like- often influenced by authority figures in our formative years. This session explores the ideas/experiences we grew up with and looks at how the image we have of God will shape the way we raise our children. Together we look at what the Scriptures say about God and who God says we are.

## SESSION 3

### IMAGINING GOD: the Son

Our faith is not a set of ideologies but a relationship with the person of Jesus Christ who is the heart of our faith. Jesus came to show us the way, but more than that He IS the Way, the Truth and the Life. We look at how the historical Jesus related to those He encountered, and how we are called to do likewise. Finally we explore the Christ of Faith- who died, rose again, and invites us to follow Him and find fullness of life.



## SESSION 4

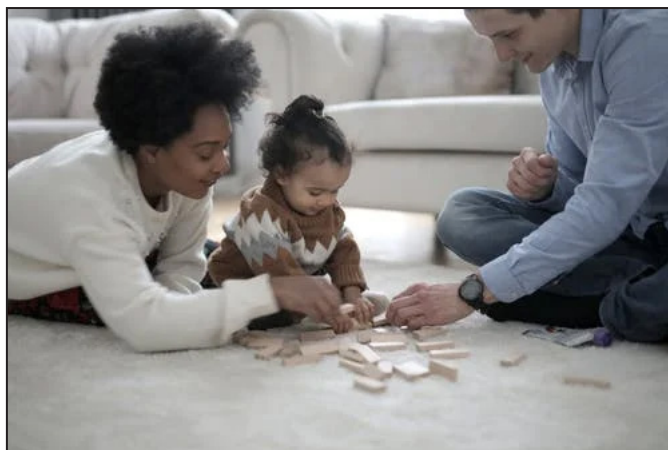
### IMAGINING GOD: the Holy Spirit

Who is the Holy Spirit, and how is the Spirit active in our lives, in our church and in our world? The Third Person of the Trinity is often seen as the 'mysterious' element of our faith. This session explores how the Holy Spirit is alive and at work in our daily lives in very practical ways. What is often lacking is our awareness of the Spirit. We look at how we can become more aware of how the Holy Spirit works in our families today.

## SESSION 5

### BUILDING A FAMILY OF FAITH

Faith is a gift from God that needs to be both lived and learnt. This practical how-to session looks at the opportunities we have to nurture faith in the 'ordinariness' of everyday life. We look briefly at the Sacrament of Baptism, what it means to be part of a faith community, and how our family's faith can be encouraged and nurtured through parish life.



## SESSION 6

### CATHOLIC QUESTIONS

An interactive session that gives parents the opportunity to explore the big questions in life from a Catholic perspective that is relevant to our lives today- from gender equality, to ecological issues, the relationship between faith and science and much more...

## SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION PROGRAMME

We are excited to offer parishes a newly developed Archdiocesan programme that covers the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist. The programme is based on the understanding that parents / caregivers are a child's 'first educators in faith'. Each Sacrament includes four facilitated interactive gatherings of parents and children (simultaneous but separate) as well as joint activities for parent and child at home between sessions. Children's worksheets and short parent handouts emphasizing key themes are provided.



## CONTACT US

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