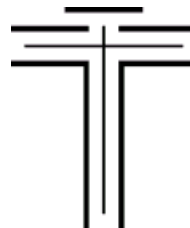


TEMPLE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA



Set your mind on God's kingdom and his justice before everything else, and all the rest will come to you as well.

Matthew 6:33

24 March 2005

Dear Parents and Confirmands

This letter is a summary of discussions and decisions made at the meeting in Bayswater on Saturday 19th March regarding the 2005 Confirmation program – lessons and ceremony.

Confirmation classes

When and where: 11 classes will be held on Sundays (mostly), over a period of nearly four months, rotating between Bayswater and Bentleigh (mostly). It is expected that Confirmands attend all sessions, unless other arrangements have been made. Dates and venues are detailed on the *Lesson Overview 2005* sheet distributed at the meeting – this has been sent separately for those who were unable to attend. Classes will begin at 10:00 am sharp and finish by 12:00 pm, with a morning tea break of about 15 minutes. Confirmands will share the provision of morning tea.

The first session on Sunday 1st May will be held at Leongatha, on Lubitz's farm, an all-day event. The second session on Saturday 14th May in the afternoon will be held in Bayswater, before venturing to Klink's at Woori Yallock for views through telescopes of the night sky. Transport by minibus will be provided on both occasions.

Content: The teaching program includes themes relating to the Confirmand and their relationship to God, to the world and the Temple Society. Classes also deal with the expression of religion in a Templer's daily life. While classes include some lectures, interactive activities and discussion will be prominent in most classes.

Homework: Confirmands will be given regular homework, both as revision on past lessons and in preparation for the next lessons. It is expected that Confirmands complete these activities to the best of their abilities. Some activities may involve parents, friends or family, while others are designed to be done on their own.

One task at the mid-confirmation camp (see below) will involve interviewing an older Templer (over 65 years of age) and reporting verbally and in writing. Questions to assist with the interview will follow.

Bring to all classes: the folder and Bible given to all Confirmands at the first session.

Distance lessons: We have a number of Confirmands living interstate or in country Victoria. Doris Frank and family have been approached to organise the use of the internet to facilitate communication. Lessons will be posted on the Temple Society Australia homepage (<http://www.templers.org>), while we hope that supervised chat sessions between Confirmands will take place during lesson times. A discussion room for Confirmands to keep in contact with each other is also being considered. Details, such as addresses etc, will be made available soon.

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Before the classes

Introductory letter: We ask that all Confirmands write a letter of introduction to the Elders running the classes. Detailed instructions are contained in the handout distributed at the meeting – this was also sent separately for those who were unable to attend. Please submit your introductory letter by the end of the Victorian April school holidays (ending on Sunday 17th April).

Reading: We recommend that Confirmands try to read one of the Gospels of the New Testament before classes begin. Most easy to read is the Gospel of Mark, historically the earliest one.

Driving rosters

Mark Herrmann will organise the roster for the Bentleigh Confirmands, while Brigitte Decker will organise the roster for Bayswater. For the latter, utilisation of the TTHA minibus is to be explored.

Confirmation ceremony

Sunday 14th August, 10:15 am in the Community Chapel, Bayswater

- Dress: Boys – dark trousers, white shirt, tie, black leather shoes
Girls – to be determined
- Reserved seating for immediate family and grandparents – Manfred Decker to coordinate
- Photographer – Susi Blackwell to coordinate
- Setting up – Christa Lingham and Ron Brown to coordinate
- Flowers – Sandra Schlender and Pam Edelmaier to coordinate
- Ushers – Winfried Beilharz to coordinate
- Order of service – Renate Weber and the Confirmands to prepare

Camps, tours and activities

Confirmands are encouraged to involve themselves as much as possible in the activities of the TSA during this time, especially the youth activities advertised in the Templer Record. If anyone has difficulty with driving or paying, please let us know, so alternatives can be worked out. Kristen Steller has been appointed as the youth leader for this Confirmation group.

Mid-confirmation camp: after lunch Friday 8th to after lunch Sunday 10th July (the last weekend of the Victorian July school holidays). A residential camp staying at Melbourne Discovery @ Hotel Bakpak (designated section with exclusive use) with a variety of city-based activities is planned.

Post-confirmation camp: A camp is also planned for the Victorian September school holidays – details are still to be organised.

Parental involvement

Parents are welcome to attend classes, or enjoy a chat over the morning tea provided in the adjoining rooms (Community room in Bayswater, Care room in Bentleigh). Please show an interest in your son/daughter's Confirmation lessons and in Templer activities, as this will help them profit from the experience.

Parent night out: A social evening is being planned for parents of Confirmands. Again, more details will be forthcoming.

Please find attached a list of contact details for the teaching Elders and the families of Confirmands. We are looking forward to working with all Confirmands over the next months.

Yours sincerely

Mark Herrmann
(on behalf of the teaching Elders)