

ENROLMENT CEREMONY FOR CONFIRMATION

The confirmation candidates are seated with their families at the beginning of Mass.

The Entrance Procession might include those who will call out the names of the candidates for Confirmation and the Commentator for the Baptismal Promises.

INTRODUCTORY RITE

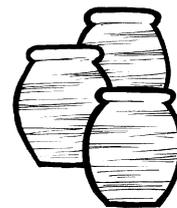
CELEBRANT:

We gather today as a community of faith in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We welcome especially the young people who are preparing for Confirmation and those members of their families who will support them on that journey. As members of this faith community, we too, will support and pray for them as they prepare to celebrate this sacrament. We ask God's blessing on all who are gathered here and pray that our time of preparation for Confirmation may be filled with grace. **Amen**

*To make more tangible the connection with Baptism, a **Sprinkling Rite** might take the place of the **Penitential Rite** this Sunday. Invite one of the Confirmation Candidates to hold the water vessel.*

PENITENTIAL RITE: *Sprinkling Rite*

Dear friends,
this water will be used
to remind us of our baptism.
Let us ask God to bless it
and to keep us faithful
to the Spirit he has given us.



God our Creator,
your gift of water
brings life and freshness to the earth;
it washes away our sins
and brings us eternal life.

We ask you now
to bless +this water,
and to give us your protection on this day

which you have made your own.
Renew the living spring of your life within us
and protect us in spirit and body,
that we may be free from sin
and come into your presence
to receive your gift of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Sprinkling of people

May almighty God cleanse us of our sins and through the Eucharist we
celebrate make us worthy to sit at his table in his heavenly kingdom.

Amen.

** The promises might take the place of the Homily on this Sunday.*

PROMISES OF CANDIDATES:

CELEBRANT:

In Baptism the candidates for Confirmation entered into this Christian
community. As a reminder of being called by name into God's family at
Baptism, I now invite _____ and _____ to once again call each of
the Confirmation Candidates by name.

*The two people who are to call the names come forward to stand each side of
the sanctuary area. As their names are called the candidates may come
forward and form a semi-circle in the sanctuary. If there is no room for this
they may stand in their seats.*

ADULT 1: _____, I call you by your name.

ADULT 2: _____, I call you by your name.

CELEBRANT:

Loving God, we hear you say, 'I have called you by name! You are mine!' You
have called each of these young people by name from this community of faith.
As your Spirit continues to call us may we be always open to the presence of
God among us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

ADDRESSING THE CANDIDATES

CELEBRANT:

As you prepare to be confirmed in your faith at Confirmation, do you promise to take time to get ready to celebrate this important step on your journey of faith?

CANDIDATES: We do

CELEBRANT:

Do you promise to try to spend some time in prayer each day?

CANDIDATES: We do

CELEBRANT:

Do you promise to try and deepen your understanding of what it means to belong to God's family by coming to Mass every weekend?

CANDIDATES: We do

CELEBRANT:

Do you promise to try to be the kind of person that Jesus would want you to; at home, in school and within the parish community?

CANDIDATES: We do

CELEBRANT:

May God continue to bless you and may you know God's love in your hearts and share it with others.

ALL: Amen

PROMISES OF PARENTS

COMMENTATOR:

Now we welcome again your parents and all those who have accompanied you on your journey of faith this far. We ask God's blessing on all of them as they prepare with you to celebrate this sacrament. We invite the parents of all the candidates to stand.

CELEBRANT:

Do you promise to help, support and encourage your child in their parish programme of preparation for Confirmation?

PARENTS: We do

CELEBRANT:

Do you promise to try to be the best of teachers in the ways of faith by taking time to talk to them about their Confirmation, praying with them, bringing them to Mass and helping them to understand what being an adult member of the church is all about.

PARENTS: We do

PRESENTATION OF THE CONFIRMATION COMMITMENT SCROLL

CELEBRANT:

We now give this scroll to each of the Candidates for Confirmation. It contains all the promises we have asked them to make in preparation for Confirmation. We ask that they and their parents sign it when they get home. We also ask that you put it somewhere that you can see it every day and be reminded of your promises.

THE PROMISE OF THE COMMUNITY

INTRODUCTION TO THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES:

COMMENTATOR: On this first Sunday of Advent, as we begin a new church year, it is perhaps good to return to the promises made at baptism. The gospel and readings today remind us to live as people of the light so that we will always be ready to meet our God. As we renew our baptismal promises we remember especially our promise to always walk as a child of the light.

CELEBRANT: We ask everybody to stand and join with the candidates and their parent as together we journey towards Confirmation. As members of the family of God it is our responsibility to support, help and pray for the candidates. They are a reminder to us that through our Baptism we are all children of God.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

ALL: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

ALL: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

ALL: I do.

CELEBRANT: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

*The celebration of the Eucharist continues with the **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL** which might include a prayer for the Confirmation Candidates. It may also be appropriate for one or two of the candidates to read the Prayer of the Faithful.*

ENROLMENT SUNDAY

The suggested date for the *Confirmation Enrolment Ceremony* is the First Sunday in Advent. However this can be a local decision. There is a benefit in all parishes in a diocese having this ceremony on the same day. It gives a sense of common purpose and vision.

The purpose of the Enrolment is fourfold:

- To present the candidates to the parish community
- To highlight the importance of partnership in the preparation programme for Confirmation
- To make the connection between Baptism and Confirmation more tangible by the renewal of Baptismal Promises
- To invite the candidates to make a commitment to personal prayer, to community prayer by attending Mass, to take seriously all the preparation for Confirmation, at school, in the parish and at home and finally to do their best to be kind of person that Jesus would want them to be. We also invite their parents and guardians to witness this commitment and to promise to help and encourage their child in their endeavours.

The Enrolment Ceremony has four main elements

- Calling by name of the candidates for Confirmation.
- Renewal of baptismal promises
- Presentation of *Confirmation Commitment Scrolls*
- Distribution of 'A Guide to Confirmation' at the end of Mass

PREPARATION:

You will need:

- The names of all confirmation candidates printed on two sheets of paper.
- Two people to call out the names of the candidates. These might be parents, teachers or members of the parish community.
- A Commentator
- People to distribute the Guide to Confirmation to the parents of Confirmation candidates at the end of Mass.

Suggestion

The names of the candidates might be placed on a poster and displayed in the church between Advent and Confirmation. The Poster could have the words '*You Shall Be My Witnesses*' with an image of the Holy Spirit. *The community could be encouraged to pray for the candidates during the year. If possible the names of the candidates could also be written on cards and placed in baskets in the church during daily Masses. The daily mass goers could be invited to take a card and to remember that child in their prayers during the year.*