

**GUIDELINES FOR CONFIRMATION  
IN THE DIOCESE OF KILDARE & LEIGHLIN**



Confirmation marks a unique moment in a person's life when one is invited to grow in faith and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, embrace a new maturity where all that has gone before takes on richer and deeper meaning further forming one as a faithful disciple, grateful steward, and active evangelist of the Risen Christ.

*(Rev. Ronald Rolheiser Secularity and the Gospel)*

## Theme for Confirmation 2016

**'Blessed are the merciful; they shall have mercy shown them '     Matthew 5:7**

These Guidelines are designed to help parishes in their preparation and planning of the celebration of Confirmation. They will also help Bishop Denis in his preparation for the celebration in each parish.

**BEFORE THE CELEBRATION TAKES PLACE:** Bishop Denis asks that the enclosed form be completed and returned to him **three weeks** before the date of Confirmation in your parish. ***Schools please note that this form is sent to the parish to complete and return.*** The following notes are designed to help ensure the best possible experience of the celebration of Confirmation for all.

**1: PARISH PREPARATION:** Bishop Nulty would like a brief description of the type of preparation undertaken by the candidates and their families in the parish. This can be as simple as naming the preparation programme such as *You Shall Be My Witnesses* or providing an outline of any initiatives used by the parish team to engage the candidates and their families in a programme of preparation in the months prior to Confirmation. This will enable him to encourage and affirm the work of preparation in the parish during the ceremony.

**2: LETTER TO THE BISHOP:** A letter to the Bishop is part of the work of the ***You Shall Be My Witnesses Parish Preparation Programme***. Bishop Nulty would like **all candidates** who will be confirmed by him to submit a letter prior to Confirmation. This letter is to be written at home by the candidates in consultation with their parents/guardians and then signed by the candidates and their parents/guardians. The letters should then be sent by the parish to the Bishop together with the enclosed form **three weeks** before the celebration of Confirmation in your parish. **If your parish has multiple confirmations please ensure that the letters are bundled together and labelled with the names of schools and the corresponding Confirmation Ceremony.** The following information should be included in the letters:

#### **BIOGRAPHY**

The candidate should introduce themselves to the Bishop:

- Who they are /How old they are
- What class/school they are in
- What parish they belong to
- Who are their family members
- What are their interests/hobbies/favourite things to do

#### **DESCRIPTION OF PREPARATION AT HOME, IN THE PARISH AND IN SCHOOL**

The candidate needs to say something to the Bishop about how he or she has prepared to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

#### **PERSONAL MEANING**

The candidate should reflect on what the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation means to them.

### CONFIRMATION NAME AND SPONSOR

The candidate should tell the Bishop what name they are choosing and why. They might also say something about their sponsor and the reason for choosing this person.

#### 3: SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The sacrament of reconciliation should be celebrated by all candidates prior to the celebration of Confirmation. A suggested outline for a Reconciliation Service and for a combined Reconciliation and Ceremony of Light Service is available for download on [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie).

4: **RETREAT:** Many parishes provide candidates with the opportunity of a retreat before or after Confirmation. This is a practice to be encouraged. A list of possible retreat venues and teams is provided with this document.

5: **SPONSORS:** Each candidate has a sponsor for confirmation. The sponsor for any candidate may be male or female, is to be at least 16 years of age, a fully initiated Catholic and living a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken. A parent may not act as a sponsor for his or her child (Canon 874). A Baptismal sponsor is desired as the Confirmation sponsor, in order to emphasize the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation (Canon 893.2).

6: **PLEDGE:** The Pledge Commitment is an important part of the candidate's preparation. All parishes are expected to include a Pledge Commitment Ceremony as part of the preparation or post celebration process.

#### 7: DAY OF CELEBRATION

**THEME:** The theme for Confirmation that Bishop Denis has chosen this year is ***'Blessed are the Merciful; they shall have mercy shown them.'***

**ATTIRE:** To make visible the relationship between confirmation and baptism, many parishes encourage the wearing of albs. This also helps to alleviate some of the costs associated with Confirmation.

**PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY:** Under the Diocesan Safeguarding Guidelines best practice would suggest that no photography or videography should take place in the Church. Therefore the taking of photographs and of videos is not permitted during the ceremony and this must be communicated to candidates, parents/guardians, sponsors and family members prior to the celebration of Confirmation. This can be done at the rehearsal and on the day itself in the time before the liturgy begins. The turning off of mobile phones should also be requested at this time.

Stewards can help to ensure that the taking of photographs or videos is discouraged.

**Bishop Nulty suggests that a group picture of him with the candidates be taken after the ceremony and that the organisation of this should be done at the rehearsal for Confirmation.**

If a videographer is being used in an official capacity he/she should be instructed not to distract from the solemn nature of the celebration and at no time should he/she enter the

sanctuary area. **Parental consent for the taking of the video must also be obtained from all parents in advance of the ceremony.**

#### **8: LITURGICAL GUIDELINES**

Almost without exception, Confirmation takes place within Mass in order to express more clearly the fundamental connection of this sacrament with the whole of Christian initiation. This is particularly apt in the context in which we celebrate the sacrament as the completion of initiation, the final step by which we become full members of the Church. It is most appropriate that the candidates begin their new journey nourished by the Eucharist. Canon 882 allows for the celebration of Confirmation outside of Mass for a just and reasonable cause.

**PRELUDE** Five minutes before the Confirmation ceremony begins it is useful for the priest or other nominated person to begin preparing the congregation for the celebration which is to follow. This is an opportunity to quieten the gathering, remind them of the need to switch off mobile phones, not to take pictures and to invite them to spend a moment in quiet prayer for the candidates who are to be confirmed. This may be accompanied by some quiet instrumental music that can continue until the liturgy is ready to begin.

#### **INTRODUCTORY RITES:**

**ENTRANCE SONG:** The Entrance Song should be one that is familiar to the children and if possible to members of the congregation. Consider having a cantor who invites and encourages everyone to sing. There is a list (not exhaustive) of suggested hymns at the end of these Guidelines.

**ENTRANCE PROCESSION:** The following is the order of the Entrance Procession

- Incense Bearer (thurifer) with burning incense
- Cross Bearer with the Processional Cross
- 2 Candle-Bearers
- Candidates and Sponsors (optional)
- Reader (optional)
- Deacon (if present)
- Concelebrants
- Bishop with mitre and crozier
- Mitre and crozier bearers

*The reader or deacon may carry the Book of the Gospels in the Entrance Procession. This is particularly appropriate if there is to be a Gospel Procession.*

*If there is to be procession of symbols during the Confirmation Ceremony it should take place after the Entrance Procession. Allow the bishop to take his place, greet the people and say his opening words before this procession takes place. The symbols, representing the candidates faith filled lives in home, school and parish, do not have to be presented to the bishop but, should be brought to the sanctuary and placed in an appropriate place.*

## **PENITENTIAL ACT**

*The Sprinkling Rite is to be used when Confirmation is celebrated on a Sunday or on any day during the Easter Season. (Appendix II New Roman Missal p1353)*

**WHEN USED THE KYRIE** will be intoned by Bishop Nulty (*A Thiarna Déan Trócaire: O’Riada Mass*)

The following parts of the Mass from the Glendalough Mass by Liam Lawton are to be sung. (*The Glendalough Mass including a CD is available from Faith Development Services €10*)

- Alleluia  
*In Lent this is to be replaced by: Glory and praise, glory and praise, Lord Jesus Christ (x2)*
- Sanctus
- Memorial Acclamation (*Bishop Denis will intone this*)
- The Great Amen (*Bishop Denis will sing the Doxology*)
- Agnus Dei

**GLORIA:** Where possible the Gloria should be sung. (*The Gloria is not prayed where Confirmation takes place during the Lenten Season*)

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD:**

*Consider inviting a Minister of the Word or a parent/older sibling to proclaim the readings. This allows the candidates to concentrate on their role which is to celebrate the sacrament and not to be distracted by participating in ways that might be best left to those who are already ministers in the community. This also allows for the community of faith to minister to the candidates on the day rather than the other way round.*

**FIRST READING:** (*Text attached*)

**PSALM:** Ideally the psalm should be sung.

Consider using Psalm 103 *Send Forth your Spirit O Lord (Liam Lawton)*  
*The Lord is Kind and Merciful (Jeanne Cotter)*  
*The Lord is Kind and Merciful (Marty Haugen)*

## **ALLELUIA: (GLEN DALOUGH MASS)**

*A gospel procession may take place. If this happens repeat the Alleluia/Glory and Praise until the deacon or priest reaches the ambo.*

**GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:1-12**

## **RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

- Presentation of Candidates
- Homily
- Renewal of Baptismal Promises
- Laying on of hands
- Prayer of Consecration
- Anointing with Chrism

*A cantor or choir may sing a suitable hymn for the procession of the candidates to the Bishop. An instrumental piece may also be*

*used. Ideally music or song should accompany the whole of the Anointing with Chrism.*

- General Intercessions:

#### **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST:**

##### **PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS:**

A suitable hymn may be sung or an instrumental piece may be played at this time. Preparation of the altar may be done by family members of some of the candidates. This allows for the presentation of the gifts of bread and wine to be highlighted as they are the last items to be brought to the altar.

*C.f. The Presentation of the Gifts during 'We Give Thanks' on the DVD of Come, Gather & Celebrate as an example of how this might be done. This can also be viewed on [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)*

- Sanctus (Sung)
- Memorial Acclamation (Bishop Denis will intone this)
- The Great Amen (Bishop Denis will sing the Doxology)

##### **THE COMMUNION RITE**

- Our Father
- Sign of Peace
- Agnus Dei (Sung)

##### **Communion Hymn/s**

Suitable hymns may be sung by candidates and congregation.

##### **THE CONCLUDING RITES**

Bishop Denis will pray a Solemn Blessing. A suitable hymn will be sung as the procession leaves the church.

## READINGS FOR CONFIRMATION 2016

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 11:1-4a

### A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

The royal line of David is like a tree that has been cut down;  
but just as new branches sprout from a stump,  
so a new king will arise from among David's descendants.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
he shall judge the poor fairly  
and defend the rights of the helpless

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn:  
they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the gentle:  
they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right:  
they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful:  
they shall have mercy shown them.

Blessed are the pure in heart:  
they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of right:



theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of evil against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord

## SUGGESTED MUSIC FOR CONFIRMATION 2016



### OPENING HYMNS:

This is the Day/Seo é an Lá	(Mary Amond O'Brien; <i>Alive-O</i> ) <i>Except during Lent because of the Allelu</i>
Come Holy Spirit	(Bernard Sexton; <i>Alive-O</i> )
Faithful is the Lord	(Liam Lawton; <a href="http://www.giamusic.com">www.giamusic.com</a> )
Christ be our Light	(Bernadette Farrell; <i>Alive-O</i> )
Fan the Flame	(Liam Lawton; <i>Alive-O</i> )
Christ be beside me	(Traditional Irish; <i>Alive-O</i> )
Come O Creator	(Webbe/Caswall; <i>In Caelo</i> )
Spirit filled day	(Mary Amond O'Brien; <i>Alive-O</i> )
Shine Jesus Shine	(Graham Kendrick; <a href="http://www.spiritandsong.com">www.spiritandsong.com</a> )
The Eyes and Hands of Christ	(Tom Kendzia; <a href="http://www.spiritandsong.com">www.spiritandsong.com</a> )
Though we are many	(Bernard Sexton; <i>Sing the Mass</i> )
Shout to the Lord	(Darlene Zschech; <a href="http://www.spiritandsong.com">www.spiritandsong.com</a> )
Where Two or Three are Gathered	(Liam Lawton; <a href="http://www.giamusic.com">www.giamusic.com</a> )

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Psalm 103	Send forth your Spirit O Lord (Liam Lawton; <i>Ancient Ways, Future Days</i> )
Psalm 103:	The Lord is Kind and Merciful (Jeanne Cotter <a href="http://www.giamusic.com">www.giamusic.com</a> )
Psalm 103:	The Lord is Kind and Merciful (Marty Haugen <a href="http://www.giamusic.com">www.giamusic.com</a> )

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia: Glendalough

*During Lent:*

*Glory and praise, glory and praise, Lord Jesus Christ (x2)* (Glendalough Mass)

### DURING THE ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

Spirit of the Living God	( <i>Hymns Old and New</i> )
Tar anuas a Spioraid Naoimh	( <i>Ite O'Donovan; In Caelo</i> )
Tar chugam, A Spioraid Naoimh	( <i>Máire Nuinseann; Alive-O</i> )
Do Not be Afraid	(Gerard Markland; <i>Alive-O</i> )
Veni Creator Spiritus	( <i>Alive-O</i> )
Song of Confirmation	(Cyril Murphy; <i>Alive-O</i> )
Holy Spirit	(Ken Canedo; <a href="http://www.spiritandsong.com">www.spiritandsong.com</a> )
Open the Eyes of my Heart	(Paul Baloche; <a href="http://www.spiritandsong.com">www.spiritandsong.com</a> )
Blessed are they the poor in spirit	(David Haas; <a href="http://www.spiritandsong.com">www.spiritandsong.com</a> )

### PREPARATION OF GIFTS

*Instrumental Music would be very appropriate at this time*

We come to your feast (Michael Joncas; [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com))  
In bread we bring you Lord (Kevin Nichols; *Hymns Old and New*)  
Ag Críost an Síol (Seán O’Riada; *In Caelo*)

**COMMUNION HYMNS** – choose a hymn that reflects that this is the time we are processing forward to receive the Lord in Holy Communion

Eat this Bread (Taizé; *In Caelo*)  
I will be the Vine (Liam Lawton; *In Caelo*)  
Though we are Many (Bernard Sexton; *Sing the Mass*)  
Come Feast at This Table (Ian Callanan; [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com))  
Céad Míle Fáilte Romhat a Íosa (Traditional; *Alive-O*)  
St Teresa’s Prayer (John Michael Talbot)  
Take and Eat (Taizé; *In Caelo*)  
Knowing You (Graham Kendrick; *In Caelo*)

**RECESSIONAL HYMNS**

Shine Jesus Shine (Graham Kendrick; [www.spiritandsong.com](http://www.spiritandsong.com))  
Fan the Flame (Liam Lawton; *Alive-O*)  
Now Thank we all our God (In Caelo)  
Lord of all Hopefulness (In Caelo)  
Christ be our Light (Bernadette Farrell; *Alive-O*)  
Shout to the Lord (Darlene Zschech; [www.spiritandsong.com](http://www.spiritandsong.com))  
Spirit filled day (Mary Amond O’Brien; *Alive-O*)

**Suggested Retreat Options for 2016**

<b>Mt St Anne’s Retreat Centre, Killenard</b>	Phone: 057-8626153 Email: <a href="mailto:msannes@eircom.net">msannes@eircom.net</a> Website: <a href="http://www.mountstannes.com">www.mountstannes.com</a>
<b>Graigucullen Parish Centre</b> Director: Cathriona Kelly	Phone: 059 9141833 Email: <a href="mailto:gkparishyouthministry@gmail.com">gkparishyouthministry@gmail.com</a>
<b>De La Salle Pastoral Centre,</b> Castletown, Co Laois Director: Derek Doherty	Phone: 057 8732442 Email: <a href="mailto:derekdoherty@eircom.net">derekdoherty@eircom.net</a>