

ENROLMENT CEREMONY FOR CONFIRMATION

The suggested date for the Confirmation Enrolment Ceremony is the First Sunday in Advent. The purpose of the Enrolment is fourfold

- To encourage the candidates to make public their commitment to preparing for Confirmation within 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 RITUAL

In the context of *You Shall Be My Witnesses* the Enrolment Ceremony has four main elements.

1. Calling by name of the candidates for Confirmation.
2. Renewal of baptismal promises
3. Presentation of Confirmation Commitment Scrolls
4. 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.

These elements and the preparation needed may differ in parishes that are using another form of preparation process or programme.

DISPLAY OF NAMES:

The names of the candidates might be placed on a poster and displayed in the church between Advent and Confirmation. The poster could have '**You Shall Be My Witnesses**' or some other formula of words together with an image of the Holy Spirit

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:

PRIEST:

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 Act** this Sunday. Invite one of the Confirmation Candidates to hold the water vessel.*

PENITENTIAL ACT: *Sprinkling Rite*

Dear brethren (brothers and sisters),
let us humbly beseech the Lord our God
to bless this water he has created,
which will be sprinkled on us
as a memorial of our Baptism.
May he help us by his grace
to remain faithful to the Spirit we have received.
Almighty ever-living God,
who willed that through water,

the fountain of life and the source of purification,
even souls should be cleansed
and receive the gift of eternal life;
be pleased, we pray, to bless this water,
by which we seek protection on this your day, O Lord.
Renew the living spring of your grace within us
and grant that by this water we may be defended
from all ills of spirit and body,
and so approach you with hearts made clean
and worthily receive your salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SPRINKLING OF THE PEOPLE

After sprinkling the people the priest returns to the chair and prays:
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.**

PROMISES:

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

PRIEST: 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.*

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

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

PRIEST: 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**

PROMISES OF CANDIDATES

PRIEST: 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**

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

CANDIDATES: **We do**

PRIEST: 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**

PRIEST: 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**

PRIEST: 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.

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

PARENTS: **We do**

PRIEST: 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

PRIEST: 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.

PRIEST: We now 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.

And so, let us stand and give thanks to God for the gift of our faith in baptism as we renew our baptismal promises.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES:

Priest: Do you renounce Satan?

Response: I do.

PRIEST: And all his works?

Response: **I do.**

PRIEST: And all his empty show?

Response: **I do.**

PRIEST: Do you believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth?

RESPONSE: **I do.**

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

RESPONSE: **I do.**

PRIEST: 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?

RESPONSE: **I do.**

PRIEST: And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit
and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins,
keep us by his grace,
in Christ Jesus our Lord,
for eternal life.

RESPONSE: **Amen.**

*The celebration of the Eucharist continues with the **Prayer of the Faithful.***