



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: PREPARATION NOTES FOR PARENTS & CANDIDATES

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE, MOUNTVIEW & BLAKESTOWN



Greetings from the parish office in Mountview & Blakestown.

Welcome to this time of ‘unusual’ preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We hope that the notes below, which replaces the customary meeting with parents before the ceremony of Light, will give you and your child some understanding as well as make your child’s Sacrament of Confirmation a meaningful faith experience.

It is always the primary responsibility of the parents to prepare the children and instruct them in matters of faith. Therefore, please prepare the children at home to understand the importance of the Sacrament they are going to receive. Please go through their religion book ‘Grow in Love’ and help them complete the pending works and lessons. Again, I am sure you will find a number of useful resources online from the Catholic world in addition to the skimpy notes that I have prepared below and their school religion book.

Let me begin by offering you our heartfelt congratulations on making the decision to be confirmed with the sacrament! This is a time of new beginnings for everyone. The Church rejoices with you in this most wonderful time!

After reading this carefully, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office if you have any questions or other needs.

May God bless you and your family!

Confirmation Name

As a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation, you have two options concerning the choice of a Confirmation name:

1. Stay with your present Baptismal name (your regular first or middle name). If your baptismal name is that of a recognized saint of the Church, there is no need to select a new name for Confirmation. Using your baptismal name for

Confirmation is preferred because it highlights the relationship between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. To stay with your baptismal name would demonstrate that you feel there has been a continual growth in your faith and you now wish to make this formal through Confirmation. You should honor this saint through prayer and imitation.

2. Pick a saint's name that would symbolize a new beginning in your faith life and a connection with that particular saint. This would be especially true if you feel that you have not been particularly strong in your faith and are now making a renewed commitment to your faith. Your commitment would be symbolized with the taking of a new name to show that you are, in some ways, now a new person. This new name would be used after your present middle name and before your family name. The particular saint's name chosen would represent the direction you feel your faith life is taking, or would represent a strength or attribute you feel you need. It is important and necessary to learn something about the saint you choose before you decide on that name.

Confirmation Sponsor

The person being chosen to act as a sponsor is asked to play a very important role in the life of a young adult who is preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The sponsor is asked to fill this role because of his/her ties of family or friendship, or because s/he is viewed by the candidate and others, as a person growing in faith and seen as a good role model of witnessing to the faith. Whichever is the case, the sponsor is embarking on a shared journey with the candidate, a journey that can enrich both their lives.

The Role of the Sponsor

- To show an interest in and support the developing faith of the young person.
- To accompany the person being confirmed on their faith journey.
- To give witness to the faith and model good Christian values.
- To be a good listener and ask the questions that encourage the candidate's thinking.

- To take an interest in the person's religious education and take responsibility for it should that become necessary.

Church Requirements

The Church requires that a sponsor meet certain requirements in order to serve as the sponsor of a candidate for Confirmation or Baptism.

1. The sponsor needs to be a practicing Catholic who lives a life of faith that serves to guide and motivate the candidate.
2. A sponsor must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist
3. A sponsor must be someone other than the parent of the one to be confirmed
4. The person must be sixteen years of age or over.
5. It is desirable that the sponsor be one of the candidate's baptismal godparents because Confirmation continues and deepens the grace of Baptism.

Essentially whoever is chosen as a sponsor needs to be practicing and engaging with their faith.

Ceremony of Light

This service is a pre-Confirmation ceremony, which is added to the Confirmation ceremony this year. The key part of the service is when parents hand the lighted Baptism candle to their child as an acknowledgement that the child is now ready to be a responsible Christian.

At their child's baptism parents light the baptismal candle from the paschal candle, this is a sign that they are willing to hand on their faith to their child. In the same way, at the service of light, parents once again light their child's baptismal candle from the paschal candle and hand the lighted candle to their children; in doing so parents promise to help and support their child live out the call of their Confirmation. They are agreeing, together with their child, to keep the light of faith burning in all of their lives.

Now more than ever children heading into adolescence need the help and the support of their parents. They need their parents to be the 'light' of Christ in their lives and to be able to rely on them in times of crisis.

Confirming Ceremony

What happens on the day?

The ceremony of Confirmation is in four parts: Presentation of the Candidates; Renewal of Baptismal Promises; The Laying on of Hands; Anointing with Chrism.

Presentation of the Candidates

After the Gospel the candidates are asked to stand and present themselves for receipt of the sacrament. It marks the willingness of the candidates to go forward and receive the sacrament that is about to be conferred on them. They stand up by themselves in marked contrast to the day when they were carried to the Church on the occasion of their baptism.

Renewal of the Baptismal Promises

After a homily by the bishop, the young people are asked to stand to renew the promises made for them at Baptism by their parents and godparents. In Baptism we became children of God, followers of Jesus Christ, and members of the Church. In Confirmation we publicly profess our faith in God our Father and in Jesus Christ who sent us the Spirit to enable us to take part in the life and mission of the Church.

Laying on of Hands

The laying on of hands is the biblical gesture by which the Holy Spirit is invoked. The laying on of hands is used in Confirmation and in other sacraments. In Confirmation it evokes the invisible gift of the Holy Spirit given to us by God. The celebrant lays his hands on the children for Confirmation during the prayer:

Anointing with Chrism

The sacramental sign of Confirmation is the anointing of the forehead with Chrism and the words 'Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.' This anointing is a sign that our whole being has been filled by the power of the Spirit. The oil used for this anointing is Chrism.

Practical tips and information

- Hand sanitisers will be available at entrance and at the back of the church
- A prayerful atmosphere needs to be maintained while in the church
- Need to follow social distancing and other regulations and guidelines of HSE.
- The Sacrament of Confirmation this year will be celebrated in small groups of 10 candidates each.
- There will be no confirmation robes this year but are requested to come in your Sunday best
- Each candidate is allowed to invite 6 other family members including the sponsor to the celebration in the church
- The sacrament will be confirmed within a simple celebration of the Eucharist.
- After the gospel reading, the Ceremony of Light will take place and after the homily the Sacrament of Confirmation itself.
- Ceremony of light this year will not include the 'three pledges' – use of drugs, alcohol and responsible use of social media. Therefore, we highly recommend the parents to discuss these issues with their children.
- Each candidate needs to legibly fill the following notes at the very bottom of this note and bring along with them on the day of confirmation and hand deposit in a box provided after the Celebrant anoints the candidate. The details provided on this form will become the permanent record of the parish.
- Please bring a candle, preferably your own baptismal candle, with you when you come to the celebration to be used at the time of the ceremony of light.
- For the confirmation ceremony we request the candidate to come forward together with the Sponsor maintaining social distancing behind the candidate.
- There will be no booklets available and we hope to have PowerPoints prepared for the celebration.
- It's important that you all members who attend the celebration arrive at least 10 minutes early and take their seats
- Only 7 members, including the candidate, per family are permitted inside the church.

- One candidate may be requested to read the ‘First Reading’ and another candidate for the ‘Prayers of the Faithful’ on the day
- At the Candidates, sponsors and parents will have designated pews to sit and the rest of the congregation present will sit in the general body of the church maintaining social distancing. However, Families and people living in the same household may sit together.
- Holy Communion will be brought to the places where you are sitting.
- No one will be permitted to enter the sanctuary area of the church.
- Please leave the church promptly after the celebration of the sacrament.
- Those who wish may make a donation to the church on the day of the ceremony
- All celebrations of will be short and simple celebrations
- Toilet facilities will not be provided these days of restrictions
- All are asked to refrain from taking pictures during the celebrations.
- The celebration can followed live via parish website.

Thank you.

Phone: 0892174317, 01 5377438

Email: mbparishes@gmail.com

Website: www.mountviewblakestownparish.ie

Office hours: Mon-Fri 10am to 1pm.

Please bring the following information on the day of Confirmation

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

Confirmation Details 2020 – School -----

Full Name: _____

Confirmation Name: _____

Mother’s full Name: _____

Father’s full Name: _____

Sponsor-Full Name: _____