

# Liturgy Preparation Sheet

For the Enrolment of Candidates for Confirmation  
from \_\_\_\_\_ School *outside* Sunday  
Mass

*It is arguable that the most appropriate setting for the enrolment of candidates for Confirmation is the Sunday Mass. In this way, the candidates are presented to their own community of faith during the celebration of the Eucharist. At times, however, due primarily to large numbers, it is not possible to do this. This preparation sheet can be used to plan for the enrolment of candidates for Confirmation outside the Sunday Mass, for example at an evening ceremony which families can attend. It is possible for such a ceremony to include the celebration of the Eucharist, although that does not form part of the planning sheet given below. It is envisaged that this planning sheet be completed at a meeting attended by representatives of the home, school and parish communities.*

## PRELIMINARY NOTES

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Celebrant(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### Music

The Enrolment ceremony will be greatly enhanced by the presence of musicians and/or choirs, whether from the parish or the school. Some suggestions for hymns are given below, but these are by no means exhaustive. Please feel free to use suitable alternatives, making sure that the whole congregation is provided with the words to sing.

### Certificates of Commitment

The required number of the Certificate of Commitment will need to be purchased or prepared in advance.

### Preparing the church building

Many teachers like to work with the parish community to decorate the church, both to make it welcoming and friendly for children and families, and to honour the special occasion that is being celebrated. There are a few points to bear in mind where this is the case:

- Flowers serve to honour our encounter with God. It is appropriate to place flowers around the sanctuary area but not on the altar itself. Flowers can also be placed in the entrance hall/porch to express welcome and festivity. It is important that flowers, candles or other objects do not distract from the area around the tabernacle during the Mass. The consecrated hosts in the tabernacle are referred to as the 'Reserved Sacrament' because these hosts are reserved to be used for visits to the sick and for adoration and prayer outside of Mass times. The sanctuary lamp reminds us of the presence of the Reserved Sacrament in the tabernacle and that we are in a very sacred space.
- There is no requirement for the children to prepare artwork for the church. In some cases, this can distract from the ceremony itself. It may be appropriate, however, to display the children's artwork in the entrance hall/porch of the church.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Hymn/Song

#### Suggestions from *Grow in Love*:

- *Gathering Song*, composed by Bernard Sexton (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p.88)
- *The Summons*, words by John L. Bell & Graham Maule (Fifth Class/P7 Teacher's Manual, p.134)
- *Christ be our Light*, composed by Bernadette Farrell (Fourth Class/P6 Teacher's Manual, p.404)

### Sign of the Cross and Greeting

### Words of Welcome

- A parish representative might welcome the candidates for Confirmation and their families to the liturgy. This person could remind the young people that they are preparing to become full members of the Church, and that this is a source of great joy for the parish community. Assure the young people and their families of the prayers of the community of faith.

### Penitential Act

#### Gloria

*(Omit during Lent and Advent)*

#### Collect

*When the Enrolment Ceremony takes place outside Sunday Mass, some or all of the readings may be taken from the Mass of the day or the Mass of Christian Initiation (Lectionary III, p. 18 and following). You may also like to use readings from the Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland (2015). These are given below. Except for those with hearing impairment, the congregation does not need a copy of the words of the readings.*

*The First and Second Readings should be proclaimed from the Lectionary. Typically a 'Reader/Lector' proclaims the Word of God at Mass. This person has been trained and commissioned for this work in the church. The Word of God is not merely 'read' at Mass, it is proclaimed. For this reason, the most appropriate person to do this work is a trained Minister of the Word.*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading (Old Testament)

Text: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Suggestions from the *Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland (2015)*:

- Isaiah 42:1-4 (Jesus anointed by the Holy Spirit to help the weak and suffering)
- Isaiah 43:1-4 ('I have called you by your name')
- Jeremiah 1:4-9 (Call of Jeremiah)
- Micah 6:6-8 (What does the Lord require?)

Proclaimed by: \_\_\_\_\_

## Responsorial Psalm

*The psalm should be sung. It is led by the psalmist, a cantor or the choir. The congregation and all the ministers should be facilitated to take up their part and sing the response each time.*

### Suggestions from *Grow in Love*:

- *The Lord, He Is My Shepherd* (Psalm 23), composed by Bernard Sexton (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p. 139)
- *Sing Praise* (Psalm 148), music by Bernard Sexton (Third Class/P5 Teacher's Manual, p.83)

Led by: \_\_\_\_\_

## Second Reading (New Testament)

Text: \_\_\_\_\_

### Suggestions from the *Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland (2015)*:

- Acts 1:12-14 (Prayerful waiting for the Holy Spirit)
- Acts 2:1-13 (Pentecost)
- Acts 4:32-35 (Early Church)
- Acts 8:14-17 (Confirmation in early Church)
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (Varieties of gifts)

Proclaimed by: \_\_\_\_\_

## Gospel Acclamation

*The Gospel acclamation should be sung. The congregation and all the ministers repeat the acclamation after the cantor or choir. The cantor or the choir alone sings the verse.*

*The congregation and all the ministers repeat the acclamation after the verse has been sung.*

Verse sung by: \_\_\_\_\_

## Gospel

### Suggestions from the *Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland (2015)*:

- Luke 24:13-35 (The Road to Emmaus)
- Matthew 5:1-14 (Sermon on the Mount)
- Luke 4:16-22 (The spirit of the Lord)
- John 16:12-15 (Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit)
- Matthew 3:13-17 (Baptism of Jesus)
- John 14:15-17 (Spirit as advocate)

Proclaimed by: \_\_\_\_\_ (priest/deacon)

# ENROLMENT CEREMONY

*After a brief homily, the candidates for Confirmation should be enrolled as follows. There are four elements to this part of the liturgy:*

1. *Calling of Names*
2. *Undertaking of Promises*
3. *Signing of the Book of Enrolment*
4. *Presentation of Certificates of Commitment*

## 1. Calling of Names

*A representative of the parent body (or two, if there is a large number of children) should be invited to read the list of the names of the candidates for Confirmation. Where there are a small number of candidates for Confirmation, it may be appropriate to have them and their parent(s)/guardian(s) stand around the sanctuary area for this part of the liturgy. Otherwise, the candidates and their parents should be invited to stand when called upon.*

Parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Introduction:** These are the boys and girls who have decided to be enrolled as candidates for Confirmation in our parish this year.

## 2. Undertaking of Promises

*The children should have had the opportunity to read and discuss the promises for Confirmation both at home and in school in advance of the Enrolment Ceremony. The promises should be read by the priest/ deacon.*

**Introduction:** Candidates for Confirmation, when you were baptised, your family made certain promises on your behalf. You are now old enough to make these promises yourselves. On the day you celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation the Holy Spirit, which was given to you in Baptism, will be strengthened in you, and will help you to continue to live your life as a follower of Jesus.

Between now and the day of Confirmation, we invite you to actively prepare for the celebration of the sacrament. If you are willing to do this, please answer, 'I will' in response to the following questions:

1. In prayer, God tirelessly calls each one of us. Will you try to respond to this call by taking time to pray to God every day?
2. At Mass, we receive strength and nourishment to love God and our neighbour. Will you try to join with your parish community for Mass every week?
3. Jesus teaches his followers to have respect, tolerance and compassion. Will you try to live as a follower of Jesus by doing your best to live as he asks?
4. When we choose to disobey God, we sin. When we sin, we damage our relationship with God and with others. Will you celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the coming months, and so receive Christ's loving forgiveness for your sins?
5. It is important to prepare carefully for the sacraments. Will you give your very best effort to preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation both in school and at home?

**Conclusion:** These are challenging promises. Know that this parish community will be praying for you as you try your best to keep them. Your teachers in school will also continue to help you. Your parents and family members, your first and best teachers, will, as always, be there to support you. And so parents and guardians, we ask you, will you help your child to keep the promises they have just made?

**Parents:** We will.

### 3. Signing of the Book of Enrolment

*The Book of Enrolment should be kept from year to year. It should be prominently displayed in the church between the Enrolment ceremony and the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.*

*Where there are a large number of candidates, the Book of Enrolment may be signed by the candidates in advance (in school) and presented at the conclusion of the promises. Where numbers are smaller, the candidates should sign the book during the ceremony. Reflective/instrumental music will help to maintain a prayerful atmosphere during this part of the ceremony.*

The candidates for Confirmation are invited to come forward to sign the Book of Enrolment.

### 4. Presentation of Certificates of Commitment

*As the candidates come forward to sign the Book of Enrolment, they should be greeted by the celebrant(s) and handed their Certificate of Commitment. They should be encouraged to sign it and to display it prominently in their home, so that they can be reminded of the promises they have made.*

### Prayer of the Faithful

*Introduction by the priest*

#### Sample Intentions

1. We pray for our families;  
*(pause to pray)*  
that they may see God's blessings in their lives,  
and that God keeps them safe.  
Lord, hear us.
2. We pray for our teacher(s) \_\_\_\_\_ and our priest(s);  
*(pause to pray)*  
that God will continue to bless their good work.  
Lord, hear us.
3. We pray for each person (*or, 'each one of us'*) preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation;  
*(pause to pray)*  
that they (*or, 'we'*) may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit  
to live as Jesus asked us to.  
Lord, hear us.
4. We pray for those who are treated unfairly;  
*(pause to pray)*  
that we may do what we can to help and support them.  
Lord, hear us.
5. We pray for the earth;  
*(pause to pray)*  
that we may always respect and care for it.  
Lord, hear us.

Conclusion by the priest, and invitation for all gathered to pray the Our Father.

## CONCLUDING RITE

### Final Blessing and Dismissal

### Concluding Hymn/Song

**Suggestions from *Grow in Love*:**

- *This is the Day* by Mary Amond O'Brien (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p.212)
- *This Little Light of Mine* – Traditional American (First Class/P2 Teacher's Manual, p.290)
- *Go Tell Everyone*, words by Alan Dale, music by Hubert Richards (Fifth Class/P7 Teacher's Manual, p.323)