

ENROLMENT CEREMONY (OUTSIDE OF MASS)

The Enrolment Ceremony is a significant part of preparing for the celebration of Confirmation. It provides an opportunity for the young people to make a decision about whether or not they wish to receive the sacrament, and to 'opt in', rather than to see Confirmation as an automatic part of their final year in primary school. The ceremony is an opportunity for them to indicate their willingness to live up to the commitment they will make on their Confirmation Day, as well as their willingness to continue their preparation for Confirmation.

Young people should be given plenty of notice so that they can prepare for the Enrolment Ceremony and discuss with their parents/guardians the commitments they will sign up to on the Certificate of Commitment. It is important to place an emphasis on the solemnity of the promises they will make during the Enrolment Ceremony regarding how they will prepare themselves for Confirmation, so that the young people will look upon these promises as a significant and meaningful commitment.

PREPARATORY 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 available in advance. A template for the Certificate is provided in these resources.

Preparing the church building

Teachers, members of the parish community and parents/guardians can work together to decorate the church, to make it welcoming and friendly for young people and families, and to honour the special occasion that is being celebrated. There are a few points to bear in mind:

- 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 not necessary for the young people to prepare artwork for the inside of the church. In some cases, this can distract from the ceremony itself. It may be appropriate, however, to display the young people's artwork in the entrance hall/porch of the church.

LITURGY OF ENROLMENT (outside of Mass)

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Hymn/Song

- See music suggestions from the *Grow in Love* programme in these resources.

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

When the Enrolment Ceremony takes place outside of 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). Alternatively, you may also like to use readings from the Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland (2015), as the children should be familiar with these. Some suggestions are given below. The most appropriate person to do the reading is a trained Minister of the Word.

First Reading (Old Testament)

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?)

Text: _____

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 sing the responses.

- See music suggestions from the *Grow in Love* programme in these resources.

Led by: _____

Second Reading (New Testament)

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)

Text: _____

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)

Homily

ENROLMENT CEREMONY

The candidates for Confirmation are enrolled as follows:

1. Calling of Names
2. Promises of Candidates
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 candidates) 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/guardians should be invited to stand when called upon.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): _____

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

2. Promises of Candidates

It is vital that the young people 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 will be invited to make these promises yourselves when you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. On that day, 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 treat everyone with respect, tolerance and compassion, as Jesus has asked us to do?
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/guardians 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/Guardians: We will.

3. Signing of the Book of Enrolment

The Book of Enrolment could 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 may 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, the celebrant(s) greet them and hand them their Certificate of Commitment. These will have been discussed at home and signed by the candidates and their parents/guardians. Young people should be encouraged to display their Certificate prominently in their home, so that they may be reminded of the promises they have made. Where candidates are not signing the Book of Enrolment, they may still come forward at this time to receive their Certificate.

Prayer of the Faithful

The intentions for the Prayer of the Faithful are usually offered by the deacon or, in the absence of a deacon, by another representative of the community. On this occasion, however, one or more of the candidates for Confirmation could be selected to offer the Prayer of the Faithful. Where this is the case, it would be meaningful to have the text composed by the young people themselves, with assistance as required.

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 may keep 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 in
our world;
(*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.
6. We pray for those who have died;
(*pause to pray*)
that they may be at peace at home with God in
heaven.
Lord, hear us.

Conclusion by the priest

Our Father

Introduction by the priest

All: *Our Father*

CONCLUDING RITES

Final Blessing and Dismissal

Concluding Hymn/Song

- See music suggestions from the *Grow in Love* programme in these resources.