



Holy Cross & St Patrick Parish, Plumstead

*Served by the Society of the Divine Saviour – The
Salvatorians*



Holy Cross and St Patrick's Confirmation Prepara- tory Booklet

Confirmation date: 8th June, 2019

Time: 5.30 pm at St Patrick's Church, Hector Street, Plumstead, SE18
1QT

Prayer to the Holy Spirit (Traditional Prayer to the Holy Spirit)

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in us the fire of Your
love.

Send forth Your Spirit and we shall be created: and You will renew the face of the
earth.

O God, who did teach the hearts of your faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant
us in the same Spirit to be truly wise, and ever to rejoice in His consolation.

Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.



1. Introduction

“I have baptized you with water; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. Mark.” 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Act 1: 8

1.1 About the Sacrament of Confirmation

Source: Catechism of the Catholic Church (No 1316-1321)

Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.

Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian's soul; for this reason one can receive this sacrament only once in one's life.

In the Latin Church this sacrament is administered when the age of reason has been reached, and its celebration is ordinarily reserved to the bishop, thus signifying that this sacrament strengthens the ecclesial bond.

A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must:

- profess the faith
- be in the state of grace
- have the intention of receiving the sacrament
- be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs e.g. schools, work place.

The essential rite of Confirmation is anointing the forehead of the baptized with sacred chrism, together with the laying on of the minister's hand and the words: "Accipe signaculum doni Spiritus Sancti" (Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.)

When Confirmation is celebrated separately from Baptism as is the case during your Confirmation ceremony, its connection with Baptism is expressed, among other ways, by the renewal of baptismal promises.

The celebration of Confirmation during the Mass (*Eucharist*) helps underline the unity of the sacraments of Christian initiation.

1.2 Objectives of the Confirmation

- Help young people recognize their dignity as sons and daughters of God, and develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ by meeting Christ in the Scriptures, in the life and teachings of the Catholic Church, in the Sacraments, and in their own prayer lives.
- Assist young people in hearing God's call to holiness, and to guide them toward a generous response to that call.
- Encourage young people to embrace the richness of diversity among their brothers and sisters thereby inspiring them to seek and find Christ in all things and in all persons.

1.3 Original Baptismal Certificate

In order to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, the young person youth must have received the sacrament of Baptism. You will be asked for a copy of the Original certificate. If you have not received First Eucharist or First Reconciliation, please let the Parish office know.

1.4 Requirements and Expectations

The following outlines the requirements and expectations for all candidates enrolled. Should you have any concerns, it is advised that you discuss with the priest or a member of the catechist team delivering the course.

- **Confirmation Age:** Candidates must be at least 12 years old or in Year 8
- **Knowledge of Christ:** The candidate should recognize the importance of Jesus Christ in his/her life.
- **Knowledge of Faith:** The candidate should demonstrate an understanding of the principal elements of the Catholic Faith according to his/her age and ability, and be committed to ongoing learning and growth in faith.
- **Retreat:** The candidate should attend at least one retreat. This is likely be away from the Parish.
- **The candidate will be asked to do 1 of the following during mass:**
 - Read
 - Join the welcoming team
 - Offertory
 - Join the choir
- **Attend Confession Before Easter**
- **Participate in Washing of the Feet (12 candidates will be chosen)**
- **Attend Stations of the Cross**

- **Attend Confession before Confirmation.** “To receive Confirmation one must be in a state of grace.” **(No CCC 1310)** All candidates are expected to receive the sacrament of Penance before the Confirmation Rite.

1.5 Sacramental Life: The candidate is expected to participate in the sacramental and liturgical life of the parish by:

- Actively participating in Mass every Sunday.
- Receiving the Sacrament of Penance frequently.
- Intending to live a sacramental life until death.

1.6 Confirmation Name.

The candidate chooses a Confirmation name and writes a biography about that saint. In both the Old and New Testament, when God had a new mission for someone, He often gave them a new name. Even without a new name, your name has always told others who you are. God calls on each of us to fulfil a special mission. It may be converting nonbelievers, helping the poor, being a peacemaker or one of many other callings. Confirmation may be the continuation of a mission you began at Baptism, or the beginning of a new mission.

Therefore there are two options when deciding on a Confirmation name:

First- Because Confirmation is the strengthening of the work that God began in your life at your Baptism, it is recommended that you give first preference to using your Baptismal name for Confirmation. This shows the integral link between Baptism and Confirmation (note: this applies only if your Baptismal name is a Saint’s name.)

Second- Perhaps you see Confirmation as a fresh beginning for you or a new mission in your faith journey. Then you may choose a new name for Confirmation. Your Confirmation name should be that of a saint you admire or the saint name of someone you know and look up to as a Christian role-model.

There are many helpful websites available to assist you in gathering information about the saints.

www.theworkofgod.org/saints

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

Once the candidate has chosen his/her Confirmation name, they must complete a short biography of that saint no more than 200 words please, why they have chosen them and then present the saint to their small group. The saint biography is due shortly after the half term in February.

2. Additional Points

➤ **Involvement of Parents/Guardians and Sponsors.**

The Confirmation process should provide for sufficient parent/guardian and sponsor involvement

➤ **Programme Duration.**

The programme will run from January 2019 to June 2019.

➤ **The Sessions**

Sessions will be held from **9:00am** and will conclude with **10.15am** Mass each Sunday on the dates as per the schedule attached.

The sessions provide a complete Programme of instruction for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is essential that candidates attend all sessions and Masses highlighted on the Programme calendar. The dates and times of these sessions have been agreed between the catechists and priests and cannot be changed.

Please note for your convenience we have avoided holding sessions during the school holidays where practical.

➤ **Missed Sessions and Punctuality**

Our sessions are held weekly to cover all aspects of the teaching and preparation.

Missing 2 sessions will result in being withdrawn from the Programme. You can message the catechist via text if there are any problems attending.

Being punctual is important. The session will start 9:00 prompt. Again, the Programme is tight on time and catechists work very hard to plan each session, covering each topic within the one hour before finishing with Mass. Please respect this request and be on time. The Hall will be open from 8:40am before each session begins.

Any Candidate(s) late at any one time will be told to prepare a 5 minute presentation to present in front of the rest of the group in the next session.

➤ **Homework/Assisting at Mass**

The candidates may be given bidding prayers and readings to practice and other activities to complete and present for homework, sessions and Mass. Although Candidates should be old enough to be responsible for completing the work set, parents please support us by encouraging your child to respect this. Thank you

➤ **Expectations of Parents/Guardians/Carers**

Parents, as primary educators of their children (**No CCC 2221**), are encouraged to be actively involved in a young person's preparation for Confirmation. Parents are expected to lead by example in sacramental participation including attendance at Sunday Mass each week and participation in the Sacrament of Penance.

Parents will have to attend at least two sessions with their children.

Parents are expected to help candidates with an understanding of the sacrament, its history, the rite and its meaning for Christian living.

Parents are encouraged to engage in family prayer, especially in regular family prayer with the Sacred Scriptures and the rosary.

Giving prayerful support and encouragement to the candidate in matters pertaining to the practice of the Catholic faith.

Supporting the candidate through Confirmation preparation and continuing that support after Confirmation by modeling and encouraging lifelong faith development

➤ **Sponsors**

The sponsor is an invaluable assistant to parents in transmitting the faith and must be able to fulfill several requirements:

- Must be an active and practicing Catholic
- Must not be the candidate's parent
- Must be mature to undertake the role

PRAYER

Lord God, as we begin this journey of faith together, we ask you to guide us along the way, and be patient with us. Support us, Lord, as we begin to ask questions, as we discuss issues and as we grow in our faith. We pray that you inspire us, Lord, to be open to your leadership in our lives.

Amen