

# **Enrolment Ceremony Template For the Sacrament of Confirmation**



**Suggested format for celebration of an Enrolment Ceremony  
within Mass and a Prayer Service outside of Mass.**

## **Rationale**

Ideally the best preparation for Confirmation is taking a child to Mass regularly and immersing them in the life and worship of the faith community. Parishes across the Diocese of Meath now facilitate a preparatory programme for children preparing for Confirmation.

The purpose of the Enrolment Ceremony is fourfold:

- To encourage the candidate 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 with Baptism more tangible by renewing their 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 the Enrolment Ceremony has five main elements.

1. Promises of Children.
2. Promises of Parents.
3. Promise of Priest.
4. Promise of the Community.
5. Renewal of Baptismal Promises

## **PREPARATION:**

### **Within Sunday Mass**

- The Paschal Candle should be lit on the sanctuary or at the Baptism Font. A bowl containing holy water should be prepared on the Sanctuary.
- Local needs and the capacity of Church will determine if the Enrolment Ceremony is celebrated at one Sunday Mass or all Masses on a given weekend.
- An invitation should be sent to all parents from the parish inviting them to enrol their child for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Prepare a leaflet containing the questions and responses. Consider printing them in the parish newsletter.
- A parent should be invited to lead the Prayers of the Faithful.
- In some instances, parishes may wish to prepare an 'Enrolment Certificate' to be presented to the candidates after the conclusion of Mass.

### **Outside Sunday Mass**

- Music organised in conjunction with teachers and children.
- Candles for each child to take home after Enrolment ceremony. With the support of teachers/catechists, candidates are encouraged to decorate the candle.
- An invitation should be sent to all parents from the parish inviting them to enrol their child for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- The Paschal Candle should be lit on the sanctuary or at the Baptism Font.
- Prepare a leaflet containing the questions and responses.
- A number of parents should be invited to proclaim God's Word and lead the Prayers of the Faithful.

- In some instances, parishes may wish to prepare an 'Enrolment Certificate' to be presented to the candidates during the Service.

## **SUGGESTED MUSIC**

*See alternative music suggestions from the Grow in Love Programme.*

### **Entrance Hymns/Songs**

- Come, Holy Spirit
- Gathering Song
- Spirit Anthem

### **Responsorial Psalms**

- Sing Praise (Psalm 148)
- The Lord, He Is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)

### **Offertory Hymn**

- We Come to You, Lord Jesus

### **Communion Hymns/Songs**

- Céad Míle Fáilte Romhat
- The Last Supper
- The Welcome Table

### **Concluding Hymns/Songs**

- Spirit Anthem
- Spirit-Filled Day
- This Little Light of Mine

## **Enrolment Ceremony for Confirmation**

*(Within Sunday Mass)*

### **Entrance Hymn/Song**

### **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.

### **Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Water**

*Altar server holds bowl of water in front of Priest:*

#### **Priest:**

Dear brothers and sisters, let us humbly beseech the Lord our God to bless this water God has created, which will be sprinkled on us as a memorial of our baptism. May God's grace help us to remain faithful to the spirit we have received.

*Brief pause of silence...*

Almighty ever living God, who willed that through water, the fountain of life and the source of purification, every soul 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 springs 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 worthy to receive your salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

**All            Amen.**

*Priest: sprinkles himself, ministers, and congregation*

**Priest:**

May almighty God cleanse us from our sins, and through the celebration of this Eucharist make us worthy to share at the table of his kingdom.

**All:           Amen.**

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*Readings of Sunday liturgy should be proclaimed by Ministers of the Word.*

## **ENROLMENT CEREMONY**

*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.*

**Priest:**

Children, in the Grow in Love programme, you will learn that through our Baptism each of us has been called and chosen by God. Every time we gather as a parish faith community, we do so in the company of our Lord, Jesus. As you prepare in the coming months for the celebration of your Confirmation, this community will support you in prayer. As you prepare for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, I invite you to affirm your commitment to your preparation for the sacrament. And so I ask you:

### **PROMISES OF CHILDREN**

**Priest:** 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 be; at home, in school and within the parish community?

**Candidates: We do**

**Priest:** Do you promise to grow in your understanding of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the gifts of wisdom, understanding, right judgement, courage, knowledge, reverence, and wonder and awe in God's presence.

**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.

**Candidates: Amen**

## **PROMISES OF PARENTS**

**Priest:** Now I invite your parents and all those who have accompanied you on your journey of faith this far to stand as they make promises which support you in prayer, helping you to recognise and know our Lord Jesus in Holy Communion, and to trust in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**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 be the best of teachers in the ways of faith by taking time to talk to them about their Confirmation, praying for them and with them, bringing them to Mass, and helping them to understand what Jesus meant when he promised the Father would send the Holy Spirit, the Advocate in His name to teach us all things.

**Parents: We do**

## **PROMISE OF PRIEST**

**Priest:** As your Priest, I commit to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus joyfully that together we may be a community gathered in love.

## **PROMISE OF THE COMMUNITY**

**Priest:** As members of the family of God it is our responsibility to support, help and pray for these children.

As our parish begins its preparation for these candidate's Confirmation, it is perhaps good to return to the promises we all made at baptism where we promised to always walk as a child of the light. I now invite everyone to stand and join with the children and their parent as together we give thanks to God for the gift of our faith in baptism and we renew our baptismal promises.

## **RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES:**

**Priest:** Do you renounce Satan?

**All: I do.**

**Priest:** And all his works?

**All: I do.**

**Priest:** And all his empty show?

**All: I do.**

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

**All: 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?

**All: 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?

**All: 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.

**All: Amen.**

*The celebration of the Eucharist continues with the **Prayers of the Faithful***

### **Prayers of the Faithful**

*(Samples)*

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.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

2. For our candidates preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. May their hearts always be places where the gifts of the Holy Spirit will grow. May these gifts bear abundant fruits in our lives as disciples of the Lord Jesus Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

3. 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.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

4. We pray for the candidates preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation; (pause to pray) that they may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to live as Jesus asked us to. Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

5. 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.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

6. We pray for the earth; (pause to pray) that we may always respect and care for it. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

7. For all those who are sick or suffering. For their comfort and assistance from hearts and hands stirred by the Holy Spirit to bring them Christ's love. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously 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.

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## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### SOLEMN BLESSING

Priest: The Lord be with you

**All And with your spirit**

*Bow down for the blessing.*

May God the Father almighty bless you,  
whom he has made his adopted sons and daughters  
reborn from water and the Holy Spirit,  
and may he keep you worthy of his fatherly love.

**All Amen.**

May his Only Begotten Son,  
who promised that the Spirit of truth would abide in his Church,  
bless you and confirm you by his power  
in the confession of the true faith.

**All Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
who kindles the fire of charity in the hearts of disciples,  
bless you and lead you blameless and gathered as one  
into the joy of the Kingdom of God.

**All Amen.**

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,  
the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**



# **Enrolment Ceremony for Confirmation**

*(Outside of Sunday Mass)*

## **OPENING HYMN**

### **INTRODUCTORY RITE**

#### **Priest:**

Good evening everyone and welcome as we gather to celebrate the enrolment ceremony for our candidates preparing for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. We also welcome you their parents and members of their families who will support them on the next step of their journey in faith as they become fully initiated members of the Catholic faith. We pray that our time of preparation will afford all of us, candidates, parents, and our community the opportunity to grow in God's grace.

#### **Opening Prayer**

Loving God, you have chosen each one of us to be here tonight. During this special time of preparation for Confirmation, open all our hearts and continue to draw us closer to your friendship. Help us become faith-filled followers of Jesus by loving and serving one another in our homes, school/s and parish community.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

#### **First Reading (Old Testament)**

- 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?)

## **Responsorial Psalm**

The psalm should be sung. It is led by the psalmist, a cantor or the choir. See music suggestions from the Grow in Love programme.

## **Second Reading (New Testament)**

- 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)

## **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.

## **Gospel**

- 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)

## **Homily**

## ENROLMENT CEREMONY

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Priest:

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**Priest:** May God continue to bless you and may you know God's love in your hearts and share it with others.

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**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?

**All:** 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?

**All: 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.

**All: Amen.**

*The celebration of the Eucharist continues with the **Prayers of the Faithful***

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*(Samples)*

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**Lord, graciously hear us.**

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7. For all those who are sick or suffering. For their comfort and assistance from hearts and hands stirred by the Holy Spirit to bring them Christ's love. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously 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.  
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### **Before the Concluding Rite**

Priest: I invite the candidates who are preparing for Confirmation to come up to the sanctuary to receive a candle. These candles contain their Baptismal names, a reminder that God calls them to the fullness of life in Jesus, through the Holy Spirit. I invite you to light the candle when you pray at home as a family or when you are discussing the Grow in Love homework or at other special moments shared together at home.

*When each child has received their candle:*

**Priest:** Candidates, receive this candle. May lighting it at home remind you that this faith community joins with you to welcome, encourage and support you. May Christ's light always shine brightly in your hearts, your homes, in our parish and in the world.

**All            Amen.**

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

Spirit of God, grant these candidates:

The gift of wisdom

to see the world through your eyes,

The gift of counsel

to make difficult decisions,

The gifts of knowledge and understanding

to use their mind to know you and to love you,

The gift of fortitude

to have the courage to live in the faith

The gift of piety

to be able to express their love

and commitment to you,

And the right kind of awe

that makes them pause to wonder and revere.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

## SOLEMN BLESSING

Priest: The Lord be with you

**All And with your spirit**

*Bow down for the blessing.*

May God the Father almighty bless you,

whom he has made his adopted sons and daughters

reborn from water and the Holy Spirit,

and may he keep you worthy of his fatherly love.

**All Amen.**

May his Only Begotten Son,  
who promised that the Spirit of truth would abide in his Church,  
bless you and confirm you by his power  
in the confession of the true faith.

**All Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
who kindles the fire of charity in the hearts of disciples,  
bless you and lead you blameless and gathered as one  
into the joy of the Kingdom of God.

**All Amen.**

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,  
the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

## Confirmation Enrolment Certificate

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that, in the Confirmation, I will be called to commit myself, to the faith into which I was baptised.

To prepare myself for this sacrament, and as an expression of how seriously I take this commitment, I promise to do the following:

- I will take time to pray to God every day.
- I will try to join with my parish community for Mass every week.
- I will try to be a good follower of Jesus by doing my best to live as he asks, and to treat others and myself with respect, tolerance and compassion.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate for Confirmation

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian

