



Confirmation 2023 – parish programme of preparation for candidates and their families

Sacrament of Confirmation takes place on Friday 26th May 2023

Mr. Burke's class – 10.30am

Mr. Sunderland's class – 1pm

Dates for Family Masses – Sundays at 10am unless stated otherwise

- December 11th – enrolment ceremony for Confirmation
- Christmas Eve at 5.30pm - vigil Mass for Christmas with Nativity Play
- January 15th
- February 12th
- March 12th
- April 23rd
- May 14th
- June 25th – celebration Mass for all who received sacraments

Dates for school prayer services being led by Confirmation candidates (both services being held in the church)

Christmas service – Monday 19th December at 9.30am (TBC)

Lenten service – Ash Wednesday 22nd February at 9.30am

Email assumptionhowth@gmail.com to contact the parish team

Format of the Confirmation celebration



A. Elements from Service of Light

The service of light is now incorporated into the liturgy on Confirmation Day. During this part of the ceremony each candidate's baptismal candle will be lit from the Paschal candle just as happened at your child's Baptism. Each parent will then pass this candle on to their son/daughter as a symbol of passing on the faith.

The Pledge is also a traditional part of Confirmation ceremonies in Ireland, and you should discuss this with your son/daughter. Candidates will be asked to pledge not to take alcohol until a time agreed with you and to abstain from harmful drugs for life.

B. Liturgy of the Word

All sacraments contain readings from Scripture (the Bible) which are the way in which God speaks to us. The candidates themselves will read these for us. We listen to these readings and we take part in the responses to the psalm. The priest reads from the Gospel and helps to explain the chosen Scripture readings in his homily.

C. Rite of Confirmation

There are four parts to Confirmation:

- a. Calling of the candidates' names – candidates will stand up with sponsors.
- b. Renewal of baptismal promises – candidates now answer **"I do"** to questions that were answered by their Godparents at Baptism.
- c. Laying on of hands – this is a gesture by which the priest, with arms raised, prays over the candidates while they are kneeling at their seats.
- d. Anointing with chrism oil – candidates come forward one by one with their sponsor who places left hand on the candidate's right shoulder. The sponsor introduces the candidate telling the priest their name and confirmation name. Chrism oil is administered by the bishop/priest, making the sign of the cross on the candidate's forehead.

D. Prayer of the Faithful

Two candidates will read the prayers of intercession while all respond **"Lord, hear our prayer"** to each prayer.

E. Candidates present a mime together