

A large, stylized flame graphic in shades of yellow and orange, with a red banner-like shape at its base. The background features a textured, wood-grain-like pattern in warm tones.

PARENT INFORMATION BOOKLET

Confirmation

Sacrament of Power



Our Lady of the Mission
Whitford Parish

"Where two or three meet in my name,
I am there among them." Matt 18:20

Our Lady of the Mission Parish Sacramental Programme

from our priests

Dear Parents,

We, as priests, would like to commend you for the gift of faith that you have given to your child and for your commitment in walking beside them on their faith journey. You have guided and supported your child on this path and now stand with them in front of the whole parish community as they affirm those vows you made for them at baptism.

In enrolling your child for the Sacrament of Confirmation you are offering them the opportunity to become full members of the Catholic Community. On their Confirmation day they will confirm their commitment to the promises you made on their behalf at Baptism. Confirmation is the third and final Rite of Christian Initiation and is the sacrament in which the candidate receives the fullness of the Holy Spirit given to him or her at Baptism. You stood before the community and said "Yes" for them at baptism, now they say "Yes" to God for themselves.

Confirmation is sometimes thought of as a kind of coming-of-age, that once you are confirmed, you have "made it" as an adult Catholic. I want to assure you that the Sacrament is far more powerful than this. A Sacrament is a sign of God's love and presence in our lives. Sacraments give the free gift of God's grace, God's love and God's life. Confirmation is not the end or "graduation" but establishes the beginnings of a life of full participation and responsibility in the Church. Confirmation also celebrates God's presence in our lives as the Holy Spirit comes to guide, strengthen and empower us to witness the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Confirmation completes and perfects our Baptism.

For this reason, Confirmation is not just one of those things we do because we are of age or because all our friends are doing it. Confirmation should be something we choose because we want to live a more Christ centred life. Confirmation is a sacrament of Christian maturity, the sacrament of active assumption of Church membership and responsibility. This Sacrament must be a complete commitment to God and the Catholic Church.



Having given your child this wonderful opportunity, I urge you to do all you can to help them prepare well and to understand the commitment they are about to publicly undertake.

Some ways you can help them prepare might be:

- Have your child study the faith regularly by reading the Gospel stories and learning about the lives of the saints
- Help them become aware that Confirmation is not the end of their religious experience but the beginning of their lifetime commitment to God and His Church
- Teach children that to love God fully they must know about Him through deepening their prayer life and their reading
- Prepare them further by exploring the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, talk about what they will mean in your child's life and how they might use these gifts to grow in their faith

Above all, Confirmation is a Sacrament of power. The gifts are given to enable the candidate to take action in the world, to carry to all people the Good News. Encourage your child to prepare for their Confirmation by doing good works - within the family, at school, in the neighbourhood and the wider community.

All members of the catholic community are called to bring about social justice and to become involved in such activities with only a little encouragement.

We pray for you and your family during this time of preparation that your child will come to the Sacrament with a heart truly ready to receive the power of the Spirit.

Yours in Christ,

Father Cyprian Shikokoti

Parish Priest

rite of confirmation

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

After the Gospel, the parish Sacramental Coordinator or another adult representative will present the candidates for Confirmation. The sponsor does not stand with the student at this time. The child does not need to say anything at this point, after being presented to the main Celebrant, the children sit down.

HOMILY

The Celebrant will then give a homily which will lead the candidates, their sponsors, their parents and the entire congregation to a deeper understanding of the mystery of Confirmation.

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

The children will move from their seats to the sanctuary, the Celebrant will pray for the students whilst placing his hands over them. The sponsor does not move forward at this time.

THE ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

The candidate and the sponsor move out of their pew into the middle aisle and join the queue. They will be directed when to move forward to the sanctuary in front of the Celebrant.

The sponsor stands behind the candidate and places their right hand on the child's right shoulder. The white Confirmation Card is handed to the assisting Priest.

The Celebrant makes the Sign of the Cross with the oil of Chrism on the child's forehead and says, "**N**, be sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit."

The child responds by saying, "Amen!"

The Celebrant then says, "Peace be with you," as he touches the right cheek of the child.

The child responds by saying, "And with your spirit."

The child and sponsor make their way back to their seat.

frequently asked questions

CHOOSING A SAINT'S NAME

Preferably, the name chosen by your child to take at Confirmation will be the name you gave to them at Baptism, this emphasises the unity between the two Sacraments. However if your child's name is not that of a Saint or Blessed then they will need to choose one. The saint chosen should be one that your child admires and has a desire to aspire to. Your child should be able to speak with some knowledge of their chosen saint. Careful thought, consideration and research should have been undertaken, so that the life, vision and holiness of the chosen Saint can serve as an inspiration and model for them as they strive to live a Christian life.

CHOOSING A SPONSOR

Children need to have a sponsor who is able to act as a guide and mentor to them on their faith journeys. Accordingly, this person must be a practicing and Confirmed Catholic, over the age of sixteen years and sufficiently mature for this responsibility. To confirm the unity between the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation it is desirable and appropriate that a Godparent from their Baptism be the sponsor. The sponsor should be able to participate fully in the Mass by receiving Communion with the candidate.

CONFIRMATION CARD

Parents will be given the official Confirmation Card which needs to be completed and returned to the parish office. This information will be used to update your child's records at the parish of their Baptism. The parish will check the information and then return the card to your child on the day of their Confirmation so they can hand it to the Celebrant when they go forward for the anointing with Chrism.

DRESS REQUIREMENTS

There are no set dress requirements for Confirmation other than neat and appropriate clothing in keeping with the importance of the occasion. Be mindful when choosing your child's clothing that it is modest and does not have any inappropriate logos on it.

RECONCILIATION

It is appropriate that your child receives the Sacrament of Penance in the weeks prior to their Confirmation. Please check the parish Reconciliation times in this booklet and take your child along. This could be an opportunity for your family to all receive Reconciliation together with the sponsor. During this time, students and the priest will go through some practical matters around the celebration of Confirmation. Students will be encouraged to ask any questions they may have for clarification.

PARENT / STUDENT WORKSHOP

This workshop is designed to assist and support families in the preparation for the Sacrament and will be held over two evenings at 5.00 pm at WCPS and PCPS. Please check the calendar and mark it in your diary.

RETREAT DAY

Each school will arrange a retreat day in school time. The children in the Parish Religious Education Program will have a retreat day on a Saturday towards the date of their sacrament.

PHOTOGRAPHY

We ask that you and your families refrain from taking photos during the Mass. There will be a professional photographer to take photos during the Mass and family portraits before the Mass. This photographer will be in the parish centre 45 minutes before the Mass and will stop taking photos half an hour before Mass begins. They will also make themselves available for half an hour after Mass. All photos are free to view and download online after your child's Confirmation weekend.

mass times

AT OUR LADY OF THE MISSION



WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday Vigil

6.30 pm

Sunday

8.00 am, 10.00 am & 5.45 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday – Friday

7.00 am & 9.00 am

Saturday

8.00 am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday

5.00 pm – 6.00 pm

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – Friday

9.00 am – 4.00 pm



PRIEST

Parish Priest

Fr Cyprian M Shikokoti

PARISH SACRAMENTAL COORDINATOR

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