



YOUR PARISH COMMUNITY

- The commitment of the parish community to each family continues throughout life.
- The parish community is a gathering of friends: Jesus' friends!
- If you would like to have a greater sense of belonging to this community you may wish to be present at Sunday Eucharist, join in the various activities and programmes, help practically or make known any ideas that could add further to the community.
- There is a place for you and your family in the parish community, if you wish to take it.
- As a member of the parish community, you are prayed for at every celebration of the Eucharist and every occasion of prayer.
- Do you have something to offer or to ask of the parish community?

www.palmerstownparish.com

What is Confirmation?

What is meaning of the secular word *confirmation* according to the dictionary?

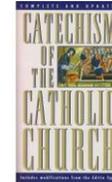
- proof which shows that something is true or correct
- a response which shows that information is received and understood; *especially* : a response that makes a purchase, appointment, etc., definite or official
- the act of giving official approval to something or someone



What is the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Wikipedia

Confirmation is one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. It is the last of three initiation rites for Catholics, the other two being **Baptism** and **First Holy Communion**. According to Catholic doctrine, in the sacrament of Confirmation, the faithful are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and are strengthened in their Christian life.



Catechism of the Catholic Church

1. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states:
Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding and courage, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the Spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. **God our Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your heart.**
2. The Catechism of the Catholic Church sees as a scriptural basis for Confirmation as a sacrament distinct from Baptism the account in the Acts of the Apostles 8:14-17:

Now when the apostles, who were in Jerusalem, had heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John. Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost. For he was not as yet come upon any of them; but they were only baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands upon them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

How are Catholics in Ireland prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Adults who present themselves for initiation in faith through Baptism and Confirmation commit themselves to the Rite of Christian Initiation which is a parish based personal faith formation programme. The adult is accompanied by a member of the parish community who guides the candidate through a period of reflection, discussion and prayer that lasts for, at least, one year with Baptism taking place at the Easter vigil.



Children who present for Confirmation are usually prepared through:

- Prayer and discussion of faith in the home
- Participation at Sunday Eucharist with the parish community
- Religious Education in school.

The preparation, for the Sacraments, began on the day of Baptism when

- ❖ parents committed themselves to guide their child in faith as part of the parish community.
- ❖ the parish community became committed to supporting the family on the journey of faith through the community gathered at Sunday Mass and faith programmes generally available in parish or requested by the families concerned. Christian faith is lived in community: local parish community.
- ❖ School preparation for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation **began on the day that each child began Junior Infants** and every year onwards. The preparation that is done in 5th and 6th class is not the beginning of preparation for Confirmation, but the last stage after six years of Religious Education.



What do we acknowledge and accept when we commit to faith in God as members of the Catholic Church?

God made me – I am truly precious to God, unique, and with a great purpose in the world
 God loves me unconditionally
 God is love
 I am connected to God by love
 I can share God with others through every act of love
 I experience God through every experience of love
 God made the beautiful world in which I live
 Care of the world, with which I have been gifted, is my responsibility
 I live in community, as a member of humankind on earth
 I have a responsibility to my parish community
 My parish community has a responsibility to me
 We celebrate parish community at the Table of the Eucharist each week
 I have received many gifts from God, uniquely chosen for me to use as God's co-creator
 I will realise the fruits of the gifts given to me when I try to discover them and use them well for myself and others
 I am not perfect, but called to greater perfection each day
 I am beautiful: I am part of God's created beauty on earth
 I believe in the community and in the teachings of the Catholic Church
 I believe that Jesus is God
 I believe in life, death and resurrection as all being a part of our sacred journey with God.
 I accept that I must be willing to carry the cross when necessary
 I believe that I will rise to be with God after death
 I believe that I have been given all the gifts that I need to rise out of the challenges that arise for me in life
 I will treasure every single moment of life – including the difficult moments
 I FREELY CHOOSE TO BE A FOLLOWER OF JESUS BECAUSE I BELIEVE