

How Confirmation Candidate and Family can prepare together:

- Register your child on our parish website for the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Choose a qualified sponsor and meet regularly with him/her (preferably via zoom if physical meeting not possible)
- Choose a saint's name as your Confirmation name and write a biography about that saint on your confirmation journal
- Participate in the preparation Mass in our parish
- Be regularly involved in social justice activities
- Participate in the Parish Confirmation program especially doing your confirmation journal.
- Watch video materials provided on our parish website and reflect on it together with your parents or guardians.

The sponsor:

- Must be a practicing Roman Catholic over 16yrs who attends Mass regularly, and is trying their best to live according to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- supports the person to be confirmed in their commitment to a Christian life
- must know the candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Christian influence on the candidate
- must be fully initiated themselves, having received Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
- should be sufficiently mature in their own faith commitment
- may be either male or female for any candidate
- must be reasonably informed on church teachings
- may accompany the candidate to special liturgies and preparation programs
- may not be the parents of the candidate
- assists in determining the candidate's readiness for the sacrament
- presents the candidate to the priest or Bishop during the Confirmation

Choosing a Confirmation Name

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 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.

Confirmation can be seen as the beginning of a new mission for you and a fresh beginning in your faith journey. For that reason you are encouraged to 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.

Confirmation Preparation Mass Schedule 2021/22 @ 10:30 Mass on Sundays

Date	Themes for the preparation using videos provided and confirmation Journal
Sunday 7 th Nov. 2021	1. ENROLMENT MASS
Sunday 21 st Nov 2021	2. WHAT IS THE BIBLE? - TASK 1 BRINGING THE GOOD NEWS
Sunday 5 th Dec. 2021	2. WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT? - TASK 2 BEING A PERSON OF FAITH
Sunday 19 th Dec. 2021	4. WHAT IS PENTECOST? - TASK 3 CALLED TO WITNESS
Sunday 16 th Jan. 2022	5. WHAT IS THE CHURCH? - TASK 4 CALLED TO BE SAINTS
Sunday 30 th Jan. 2022	6. WHAT ARE THE SACRAMENTS? - TASK 5 THE SPIRIT GUIDE AND HELPER
Sunday 13 th Feb. 2022	7. WHAT IS CONFIRMATION? - TASK 6 INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
Sunday 27 th Feb. 2022	8. WHAT ARE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT? - TASK 7 A SPIRIT OF SERVICE
Sunday 13 th Mar. 2022	9. WHAT ARE THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT? - TASK 8 THE SAME SPIRIT AS THE APOSTLES

Confirmation ceremony is provisionally scheduled for 31st March and 1st April 2022. These dates are subject to change depending on guidelines. Time and number will be communicated closer to the dates. Please register your child on our parish website: <https://www.stpatrickslucan.ie>

St. Patrick's Parish Esker



*Information for
Parents & Guardians
of Children preparing for
Confirmation
2021/22*

INTRODUCTION

Welcome! We are looking forward to sharing with you this journey of faith as your child prepares to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. As you will see, Confirmation preparation involves learning, sharing, serving, fellowship, spiritual growth and fun! Your child will be given the opportunity to learn more about their Catholic faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. **Confirmation** is the Sacrament in which one is enriched by the gift of the Holy Spirit and bound more perfectly to the Church. It strengthens us and obliges us to be witnesses to Christ by word and deed and to spread and defend the faith. It is the Sacrament in which one enters into full membership in the Catholic Church. **Confirmation** perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which strengthens us with the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply as children of God, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us to bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.

A Christian does not live as a child of God through his or her own efforts alone, but through the grace of God.

As you are aware, we are living in a difficult and challenging time. Our preparation this year will not be like other years. We will encourage you to support your child by engaging in our parish confirmation program. This booklet gives you some guidelines on ways you can support your child in preparing for this Sacrament.



How you can support your child this year

This year we will be using videos and confirmation journals which will focus on specific themes about our faith and the sacrament our children are preparing to receive. We encourage you parents and guardians to please journey with your child using these materials provided. We are asking you too take note of the dates for the preparation masses. Please consider doing the following:

- ♦ Worship with your families regularly **10:30 am Family mass on Sundays.**
- ♦ Engage in discussions about the material being studied including sharing your understanding and perspective. Our Confirmation journal and video materials should be discussed with the candidates.
- ♦ Encourage your child to reflect and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
- ♦ Pray for your child's spiritual growth every day.
- ♦ Support and encourage completion of assignments, activities and expectations.
- ♦ Emphasize the importance of the sacrament of Confirmation by taking an active part in the celebration of Confirmation.
- Create a family prayer space.
- Pray with your child at home.



Setting up a Prayer Space in your home:

A prayer or sacred space is a small area in which you can place symbols that help your child to sense and express that God is present in their lives. Children often use their sacred space at home as an area for the "holy objects" that they accumulate from home, school, relations and parish.



It doesn't have to be complicated. A window sill or corner of a table will do. Place a coloured cloth here with a Candle and any other sacred symbols that appeal to your child. Talk with them about the meaning of the objects & symbols they are placing in their sacred space. They can be changed with the different seasons *eg. at Christmas and Easter.*

N.B. Always supervise children around lighting candles.

Suggestions for praying with your child

- Use the prayers your child is learning at school
- Say a grace before meals when you sit down to eat as a family.
- Encourage them to pray for friends & relatives.
- Pray with your child before they go to sleep at night. This is a lovely time to talk over their day and to thank God for the good things in our lives and to ask God to bless all the people we love.

