

The Sacrament of Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated each year

Instruction classes for children who wish to be confirmed commence shortly after the beginning of the Autumn term.

You may register for Confirmation by requesting a registration form on Sunday, after the Mass, or by contacting School Office. You may also download the registration form from the "Document Folders" on the Parish website (stpatricksstafford.co.uk)

In addition to attending the instruction classes, candidates for confirmation must meet the following requirements.

1. Obtain a recent copy of your Baptism Record. This is done by writing to, or telephoning, the parish where you were baptized. Give them your name, your father's name, your mother's first name and maiden name, and the approximate date on which you were baptised. They will send you a copy of the record.
2. Practice the Catholic faith. This includes regular participation at Sunday Mass, daily prayer and making a sincere effort to grow in faith through your participation in the catechesis for Confirmation.
3. You are encouraged to pursue some type of apostolic action as an expression of your Catholic beliefs.*
4. You are encouraged to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation before your Confirmation.**
5. Choose a name for Confirmation. At Confirmation, one chooses a Saint's name. It is most appropriate to use your Baptismal name, if you were given a Saint's name at birth. Otherwise, you may choose the name of a Saint whom you admire. There are a large number of books available which will give you information about the lives of the Saints.
6. Choose a Sponsor for Confirmation. Because Confirmation is the completion of Baptism, the Liturgy of Confirmation is patterned after the Baptismal Liturgy. Your sponsor will present you to the Bishop or Celebrant when you step forward to be confirmed. You are encouraged to choose one of your Baptismal Godparents for this role. If that is not possible, choose someone whom you consider to be a rôle model for living the Catholic faith. The requirements for Confirmation Sponsorship are listed below.

All candidates for Confirmation must choose a sponsor who will present them to the Bishop during the Liturgy of Confirmation. Sponsors must meet the following requirements:

1. A sponsor must be a Catholic who actively practices the faith.
2. A sponsor must be at least 16 years old and already Confirmed.
3. If married, the marriage must be valid according to Church law.
4. A sponsor may not be a parent of the candidate.
5. A sponsor need not be the same gender as the candidate.

* Examples for children might be:

- Train as an Altar Server.
- Join the Choir (including regular choir practice).
- Any kind of voluntary work which helps others.

** The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available every Saturday morning from 11 am to 12 noon

CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION.

The Celebrant addresses the congregation, calling them to prayer for the candidate(s).

The candidates for Confirmation then make their renunciation of sin and their profession of Faith.

Do you reject Satan?

Candidates: **I do.**

And all his works?

Candidates: **I do.**

And all his empty promises?

Candidates: **I do.**

Do you believe in God, the father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Candidates: **I do.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Candidates: **I do.**

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 the life everlasting?

Candidates: **I do.**

CONFIRMATION

The Celebrant addresses the people calling them to pray that God our Father will pour out the Holy Spirit on the candidates.

All pray briefly in silence

Laying on of Hands

The celebrant then extends his hands over the persons to be confirmed and prays for the Spirit to come upon them.

All: Amen.

Anointing with Chrism:

Each candidate and sponsor goes in turn to the Celebrant and the candidate kneels; the sponsor placing the right hand on the candidate's shoulder. The Confirmation name is given to the Celebrant.

The Celebrant dips his right thumb in the Chrism and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed as he says:

N. be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Newly confirmed: **Amen**

Celebrant: Peace be with you.

Newly confirmed: **And also with you.**