

# Our Lady of the Annunciation Addiscombe



*"..filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit,  
may we always mirror Christ's presence in our relations with others,  
our openness to those in need  
and our living witness to the Gospel message of joy and peace."*

*Pope Francis*

## Confirmation Handbook 2023

## Introduction

Dear Candidates, Parents and Sponsors,

Welcome to the preparation for Confirmation Programme 2023. We are looking forward to sharing with you this journey of faith as you prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. As you will see, Confirmation preparation involves learning, sharing, fellowship, spiritual growth and fun! You will be given the opportunity to learn more about your 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 the grace we received at our Baptism; it is the sacrament which gives us the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply as children of God, 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 actions.

A Christian does not live as a child of God through his or her own efforts alone, but through the grace of God. We see this in a practical way when we look back on our own lives and the lives of others, even the lives of saints. Therefore, it is our duty to seek the grace that God offers us in order to live our lives as Christians in the way that God intends.

God bless  
Fr Keith & the Confirmation Catechists

### PRAYER

Lord God, as we begin this journey of faith together,  
we ask you to guide us along the way,  
and be patient with us as we follow.

Support us, Lord, as we begin to ask questions,  
as we discuss issues and as we grow in our faith.

We pray that you inspire us, Lord,  
to be open to your leadership in our lives.

Amen

## Confirmation Candidate Expectations

- Participate in weekly Mass
- Participate in sessions
- Choose a qualified sponsor and meet regularly with them
- Choose a saint's name as your Confirmation name and be able to speak about why you have chosen that saint
- Participate in Rite of Commitment Mass
- Participate in the Confirmation rehearsal
- Participate in the Confirmation liturgy!

### Expectations in Detail

The following explains each of the Confirmation expectations in detail and in some cases, the reasons and requirements that are important to the formation of the candidate. Please remember that while in many cases we list a minimum requirement for Confirmation, the candidates should be encouraged to make many of these activities a regular part of their faith practices.

#### **Participate in Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday each week**

The Confirmation candidate should have a sincere intention of participating in Mass every week. Participating in the Eucharistic life of the community is both a privilege and an obligation of Confirmed Catholics. When we worship as a community we build up the Body of Christ.

#### **Participate in Confirmation sessions**

Attendance at the Confirmation sessions is essential in preparing the candidates for reception of the sacrament. When a session is missed, the candidate loses time for fellowship and prayer as well as the material covered that day. Students are expected to approach Confirmation sessions with openness and a readiness to get involved. It is also expected that the candidates will respect all catechists as they would any other member of staff.

#### **Choose a qualified sponsor and meet regularly with your sponsor**

The confirmation sponsor should be a person who has been a strong role-model as a faith-filled Catholic. This person will be a companion in your faith journey and will vouch for your readiness to receive the sacrament. The sponsor should therefore be able to meet regularly with the candidate, spend time strengthening a bond with the young person, help him/her prepare for the sacrament through prayer and discussion and be in physical attendance at the confirmation.

#### **The sponsor:**

- must be a practising Roman Catholic who attends Mass regularly (Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation)
- supports the person to be confirmed in their commitment to a Christian life
- must know the candidate and be willing to serve as a committed and lasting Christian influence on the candidate
- must be fully received themselves, into the Catholic Church, having received Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion
- may be either male or female for any candidate
- may accompany the candidate to special liturgies and preparation programmes
- may not be the parents of the candidate, grandparents or siblings
- assists in determining the candidate's readiness for the sacrament
- presents the candidate to the minister of Confirmation

### **Choose 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. God calls on each of us to fulfil a special mission. It may be converting nonbelievers, 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. 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. There are many helpful websites available to assist you in gathering information about the saints. Here are a couple to get you going: [www.theworkofgod.org/saints](http://www.theworkofgod.org/saints)  
<http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

### **Service projects within the parish community**

There are plenty of volunteer opportunities in the parish community including assisting with children's liturgy, mass readings, coffee mornings, church charity fundraising and such. Use your interests and your talents to help in your parish community. These projects will hopefully provide a valuable experience that will extend beyond your Confirmation preparation into your adult life.

### **Participate in the Rite of Commitment Mass**

All candidates, parents and if available, sponsors should attend the Rite of Commitment, date to be confirmed. During the Mass the candidates will declare their intent to seek the Sacrament of Confirmation with the church community as witness. In return the community agrees to support and pray for all those involved in this faith journey.

### **Attend Confirmation Rehearsal**

All candidates must attend the Confirmation Rehearsal, date to be confirmed. Sponsor and parents also to attend.

### **Participate in the Liturgy and Rite of Confirmation**

The Rite of Confirmation will take place on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 11.30am.

*“All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life.  
Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their Helper and Guide.  
Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence.  
Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.”*

*Rite of Confirmation*

### **Roles and Responsibilities of Parents**

“As the primary educators of their children: parents are to be intimately involved in the catechesis for Confirmation. This will help them renew and strengthen their own faith, besides enabling them to set a better example for their children.”(NCD, no. 119)

#### **Because parents:**

- Are the primary educators of their children
- Are responsible for initiating their children into the sacramental life
- Serve as models for their child by being committed Christians

#### **Parents should expect to:**

- Worship with their families regularly
- Be actively involved in the Confirmation preparation of the candidate
- Engage in discussions about the material being studied including sharing their understanding and perspective
- Encourage their child to reflect and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the sacrament of Confirmation
- Pray for their child’s spiritual growth every day
- Support and encourage completion of assignments, activities and expectations
- Emphasise the importance of the sacrament of Confirmation by taking an active part in the celebration of Confirmation.

**Confirmation Programme 2023**  
**Our Lady of the Annunciation, Addiscombe**

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September Large Hall 8pm	<b>Parents Meeting &amp; 'who's who'</b>	Parents / Guardians & candidates to attend Away Day forms to be completed & Sponsor Forms to be handed in
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> September Our Lady's Church Times 9.00 - 6.00pm	<b>Confirmation Conference 1</b> Including Mass of Commitment at 10.00am	Sponsor & Parents to attend
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> October Aylesford Priory Leaving at 8.00am Returning at 7.00pm	<b>Confirmation Conference 2</b>	Please meet in church car park at 7.50am
Week commencing 16 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>1-1 Meeting with Fr Keith</b> Including Reconciliation	Candidates to book in 15 min appointment with Fr Keith via the parish office
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October Our Lady's Church 7.30pm	<b>Confirmation Rehearsal</b>	Candidate, Sponsor & Parents/Guardians to attend Last date to bring along any outstanding Fundraising monies

**Sacrament of Confirmation**  
**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 11.30am**  
**Celebrant - Fr Gerard Bradley**