

Mountrath Ballyfin Parish News 2nd April '23

St. Fintan's Parish, Mountrath – Ballyfin

Palm Sunday and Holy Week

Sat. 1st - Sun. 2nd April 2023

Fr. P.J. Fitzgerald C.C. (087) 605 5783

Fr. Joe (087) 2411 594

Mountrath Parish Radio transmits on

FM 104.5

www.ballyfinparish.ie www.mountrathparish.ie

Email jmbrophy2@gmail.com

Parish Visitation April.

Tues. 4th Mountrath Country

Wed. 5th Mountrath Town

Thurs. 6th Ballyfin Parish



Arrangements for Easter Ceremonies

Both Parishes

Penitential Services for Easter Tues. 4th

Mountrath 7.00 pm Ballyfin 8.00 pm

Holy Thurs. Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30 pm

Renewal of Ministers of Holy Communion during Mass

All Ministers of Holy Communion are required to attend.

Watch and Pray after Mass - Ending at midnight

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross - St. Matthew's Ch, Roskelton to
The Hollow Ch.

Starts at 10.00 am (At St. Matthew's Church)

Solemn Liturgy of the Passion 3.00 pm

Stations of the Cross 7.30 pm (Both Churches)

Holy Saturday

Individual Confessions 11.00 am (Both Churches)

Easter Vigils commencing at 8.00 pm

Easter Sunday.

Mass in the Hollow Church 9.00 am

Mass in Ballyfin 10.00 am

Mass in Mountrath 11.30 am



Palm Sunday

Deadline for Parish Newsletters

Items for Parish Newsletters are always most welcome. If you wish to have an item included in the Parish Newsletters (Print or online Edition) we request that they be in by 11.00 am on Thursdays

Text Message, Email, Whatsapp, Letter or Pop into Parochial House.

Mountrath – Ballyfin Parish App. available to download on iPhone and Android

*A Very Sincere "Thank you" for Your Most Generous Support
of all our Parish Collections*

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

Meeting in Parish Centre, Portlaoise

Tues. 4th April after 10.00 am Mass New Members are most welcome.

Contact for more information

087 747 4939

In This Issue

Living Well Expo

Ballyfin Mountrath Mountmellick Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Guidelines for Confirmation

Vacancies on Mountrath CE Scheme

Cemetery Masses In Mountrath Ballyfin

During 2023

"Living Well" Expo

Arrangements for Easter Ceremonies 2023

Diary Dates for 2023

Mountrath - Ballyfin Lotto Results.

Parish Finances. - A Word of Thanks

Different ways of Supporting your Parish:



Safeguarding Children Parish Reps

Ballyfin Parish Triona O'Rourke and Peter Byrne

Mountrath Parish Caroline Moore and Pachelli Walsh

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person: Ms Kathleen Sherry

Deputy Diocesan Liaison Person: Ms Michelle Hughes,

c/o Bishop's House, Dublin Rd, Carlow Ph: 085 802 1633

We keep and hold in our thoughts and prayers

People, their families and carers, who are ill or unwell – at home, in hospital or
Nursing Home or undergoing any surgical or medical procedures. –

We wish them a speedy recovery.

Mass Times – Anniversaries

Mountrath Sat. 1st - Sun. 9th April

- Sat. 1st Apr. 7.00 pm Adam Kirwan, Derrough - Month's Mind.
Matthew and Margaret Harrington Trumera,
and deceased members of Harrington Family
- Sun. 2nd Apr. 9.00 am The Hollow Church Sr. Pio Francis Mc Keon
11.30 am Niall (Nally) Phelan. Cluainin 4th Anniv.
Jack Sinnott, New Line Close 9th Anniv.
Paddy Sinnott, New Line Close 11th Anniv.
- Mon. 3rd Apr. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.
- Tues. 4th Apr. 10.00 am Tim Keenan, Church St. 6th Anniv.
7.00 pm Penitential Service for Easter (Ballyfin 8.00 pm)
- Wed. 5th Apr. 10.00 am Noel Russell, Patrick St.,
- Thur. 6th Apr. 7.30 pm **Holy Thursday** - Mass of the Lord's Supper
Renewal of Ministers of Holy Communion during Mass.

This renewal ceremony is for all Ministers of Holy Communion who wish to continue
as Ministers of Holy Communion for the coming year.

- Fri. 7th Apr. **Good Friday**
- 10.00 am Stations of the Cross. - See Page 1
- 3.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion.
- 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross.
- Sat. 8th Apr. **Holy Saturday**
- 11.00 am Individual Confessions
- 8.00 pm **Easter Vigil Ceremony**
- Sun. 9th Apr. 9.00 am **Easter Sunday** The Hollow Church.
- 11.30 am Mass of the Resurrection.
-

Lord, for your faithful people, life is changed, not ended.

Ballyfin - Mass Times Anniversaries

Fri. 31st Mch – Mon. 10th Apr

- Fri. 31st Mch. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Bl. Sacrament
- 7.30 pm Celebration of the Eucharist.
- Sat. 1st Apr. 8.00 pm Joseph (Joe) Connolly, Esker. Month's Mind.
- James and Margaret Lalor, Cappinacaire.
- And daughter, Margaret Newell (England)
- John Fitzpatrick, Ross.
- Sun. 2nd Apr. 10.00 am Noel Walsh, Pallas Little and deceased family members.

Austin O'Flynn, Deerpark. 9th Anniv.

Daniel and Brigid Dowling, O'Moore Forest.

Mon. 3rd Apr. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

7.30 pm Chrism Mass Cathedral, Carlow

Tues. 4th Apr. Penitential Services for Easter

Mountrath 7.00 pm Ballyfin 8.00 pm

Thurs. 6th Apr. 7.30 pm Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper

Renewal of Ministers of Holy Communion during each Mass

This renewal Ceremony is for all Ministers of Holy Communion who wish to continue as Ministers of Holy Communion for the coming year

Watch and Pray before the Blessed Sacrament - Ending at about midnight

Fri. 7th Apr. 3.00 pm Good Friday Solemn Liturgy of the Passion

7.30 pm Stations of the Cross

Sat. 8th Apr. 11.00 am Holy Saturday Individual Confessions

8.00 pm Easter Vigil Bernadette Coyne, Boghlonge 8th A.

Sun. 9th Apr 10.00 am Easter Sun. Mass of the Resurrection.

Mon. 10th Apr 7.00 pm Easter Mon. Apostolate of Sanctification

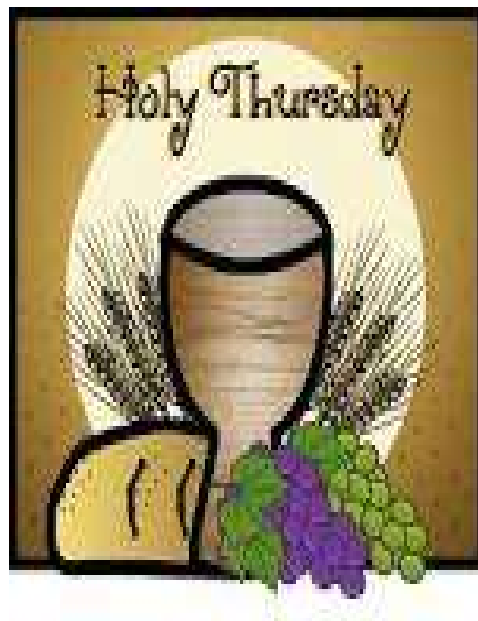


Arrangements for Easter Ceremonies 2023

Easter Sunday is 9th April

Penitential Services for Easter Tues. 4th April

Mountrath 7.00 pm Ballyfin 8.00 pm



Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30 pm

Renewal of Ministers of Holy Communion during each Mass

This renewal Ceremony is for all Ministers of Holy Communion who wish to continue as Ministers of Holy Communion for the coming year

Watch and Pray before the Blessed Sacrament

after each Mass Ending at midnight



Stations of the Cross - St. Matthew's Ch, Roskelton to The Hollow Ch.

Starts at 10.00 am (At St. Matthew's Church, Roskelton)

Solemn Liturgy of the Passion 3.00 pm

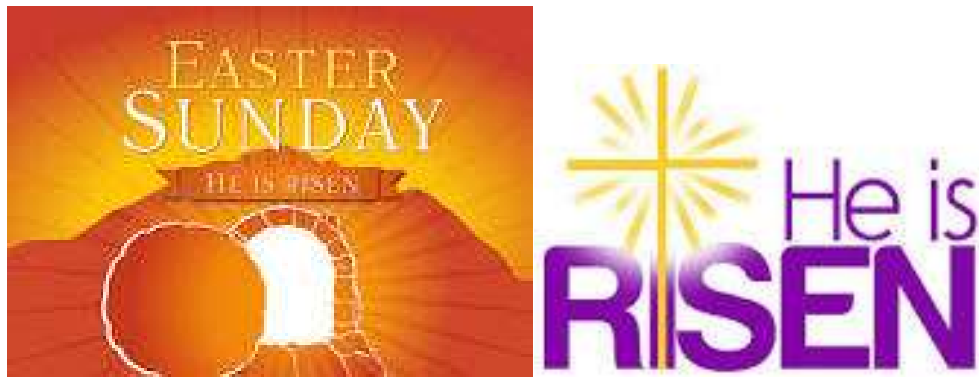
Stations of the Cross 7.30 pm



Individual Confessions - 11.00 am

Easter Vigil commencing at 8.00 pm

Easter Sunday.



Mass in the Hollow Church 9.00 am

Mass in Ballyfin at 10.00 am Mass in Mountrath 11.30 am

Letter from Edel Moloney, Mountrath Ce Scheme Supervisor

Mountrath Amalgamated CEP CLG

We have the following upcoming vacancies in the coming weeks:

Env. Worker – Mountrath CES 2254234

Env. Worker - Castletown CES 2268516

Shop Assistant - Mountrath CES 2261754

Hours 19.5 hours per week.

Salary: Community Employment Rates

Application Details:

Eligibility to participate on CE is generally linked to those who are 21 years or over and in receipt of a qualifying social welfare payment for 1 year or

more or 18 years and over for certain disadvantaged groups. Your eligibility will have to be verified by the department.

You can also call into our office on Patrick St, Mountrath or email mrtacpecoltd@gmail.com

Kind Regards Edel Moloney - Mountrath CE Supervisor.

My working day may not match your working day. I respect that your working arrangements may be different so please respond when convenient for you.

Diary Dates for 2023

Confirmation Date - Ballyfin Parish

Fri. 12th May 2023 Time 11.00 am - Main Celebrant, Bishop Denis Nulty

1st Holy Communion Date – Mountrath Parish Sun. 7th May 2023 -
With children of Scoil Bhride and St. Fintan's

The Hollow Church

Sun. 21st May Time 9.00 am - With children of Gaelscoil Thromaire.

1st Holy Communion Date – Ballyfin Parish

Sun. 21st May 2023 Time 2.00 pm

Sun. 28th May (With children of Barnashrone NS) Time 2.00 pm

Mountrath - Ballyfin Lotto Results.

Ballyfin Lotto Results

29th March

Nos. Drawn 4 11 18 30

No Jackpot Winner.

21 Match 3 Rec. € 48

1 Local Winner

Marie McEvoy Sponsor - Mary McEvoy

Next Week's Jackpot € 15,000

Mountrath Parish Lotto

Thurs. 30th March

Numbers drawn 1 18 22 23

No jackpot winner.

9 Match 3 Winners - each received € 112.00

2 Local Winners

Kevin Coss Sponsor Declan Fitzpatrick

Betty Coughlan Sponsor Ann Carroll

Next week's Lotto Jackpot €16,000.

Clean Up Laois Week

Ballyfin Community Alert have registered with Laois County Council to take part in Clean Up Week 17th – 21st April. Bags, gloves & pickers will be given out on Saturday 8th April from 10.30 -11am at the Community Centre or contact Sheila on 086 1570145.

Bags of litter to be left behind Recycling Bank for collection by the Council on Tuesday 25th April.

“Living Well” Expo

The “Living Well” Expo takes place on Thurs 13th April, from 4 to 8pm in Portlaoise College, Mountrath Road Portlaoise, which will be opened by Anna Mai McHugh, who needs no introduction. This event is a joint collaboration between Age Friendly

Laois & Healthy Laois, which aims to showcase the supports available to all ages in Co Laois to Live Well. There will be a main expo area, with 70 exhibitors in total attending on the day, including sports and community groups, health services and technology providers who offer products to enable people to live independently for longer. There will be presentations from the team at Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme, which is to be rolled out nationally in support of aging at home. There will be talks by Teac Tom, Meals on Wheels Network, Garda Crime Prevention, Fire & Rescue Service and more.

Along with the main arena, there will be 4 other areas offering health screening, demos on safety technology in the home- personal alarms , GPS devices and more. Edufit will have their own area with information and talks on Perimenopause Menopause and Post Menopause and healthy cooking demos will be provided by the LOETB and our own Coalition Chefs.

The above is just a taste of what is happening on the day (a full list of exhibitors is attached above). To find out more, or to pre register groups, call Tom (contact details below) or Emma on 0860665215 (eoconnor@laoiscoco.ie)



Living Well A4 Poster v3 (1).pdf

Parish Finances. - A Word of Thanks

Thanks for your generous contributions to Parish Funds.

Once again, I want to renew my appreciation and gratitude for the ways in which you have found to support the parish and us, the priests of the parish, over the past year. We are deeply grateful. It has and continues to be a most challenging time for so many; families, self employed, hospitality and so much more. By and large we are not doing too bad, thanks in no small part to your generosity, I wish to acknowledge your support given via the weekly envelopes (2023 boxes are ready for distribution at present). Contributing to the Parish by envelope allows us to keep track of your donations for the whole year and, where possible, (and totally at your discretion) claim the additional 45% back from Revenue under the charity donations scheme at no cost to yourself. If you are not as yet, part of this scheme – and would like more information, please contact me when you get a chance.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity - it is very much appreciated.

Different ways of supporting your Parish:

⇒ Weekly Envelopes ⇐

⇒ Direct payment - Cash/Cheque ⇐

If contributing by cheque please make cheques payable to "Mountrath Parish" - or "Ballyfin Parish"

Please indicate - Parish Fund or Clergy Fund (for support of the priests of the Parish)

Cheques can be posted to – Parish Office, Parochial House, Ballyfin, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

⇒ Online Facility (See Diocesan Website – www.kandle.ie) ⇐

⇒ Standing Order or Transfer directly to our Accounts ⇐

The following are our Bank Account Details

Mountrath Parish - Bank Account Details

(Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account

Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50

BIC. - BOFIE2D

Ballyfin Parish - Bank Account Details

(Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Ballyfin Parish Pastoral Council

IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

Please include your own name as the reference.

⇒ Support Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos ←

If you have any queries or would like to speak with us regarding donating to the Parish or participating in the charity tax donation scheme,
just ring me on 087 241 1594 (Fr. Joe)

Stay connected with us!

Parish Website www.mountrath/ballyfinparish.ie - Links to Webcams on
Home Page

Visit our Parish App. Mountrath Ballyfin Parish

Cemetery Masses In Mountrath ~ Ballyfin During 2023

Ballyfin New Cemetery Sun. 11th June

Mountrath Cemetery Fri. 28th June

Clonenagh Cemetery. Fri. 7th July

C;ondarrig Cemetery Wed. 2nd Aug.

Boghlone Cemetery. Wed. 6th Sept.

All our Cemetery Masses will begin at 7.00 pm

LOURDES



MOUNTMELICK, MOUNTRATH, BALLYFIN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2023

Spiritual Director: Fr Noel Dunphy

2 August 2023

7 Nights from Dublin Airport

€995 per person sharing

- » Direct return flights from Dublin to Lourdes
- » Return airport transfers in Lourdes
- » 7 nights in the Hotel La Solitude
- » Full Board: breakfast, lunch & dinner each day
- » Full religious programme including Mass at the Grotto, Anointing of the Sick, Torchlight Procession, Blessed Sacrament Procession & International Mass
- » Full assistance of Joe Walsh Tours guides and representatives throughout the pilgrimage and at airports
- » Optional single supplement €39 per night

For information please contact: **Eleanor Duff 087 7670915**

Joe Walsh Tours | 89 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2, D02 WY88

www.joewalstours.ie | info@joewalstours.ie | Reservations: 01-2410800

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Contact Person - Eleanor Duff - 087 7670915

Silver Screenings

The IMC Cinema, Fairgreen, Carlow are running a weekly over 60's club on Thursdays at 1.30pm. Latest releases, reduced volume, raised lighting and special rate of €7.

Diocesan News

The Matt Talbot Prayer Society – Praying for those suffering from Addiction

The Matt Talbot Mass is celebrated on the first Monday of the Month in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow on Monday, next Mass takes places on Monday 3 April at 10.00 am.

This Prayer Society has been created to pray for people who are suffering from any form of addiction, to pray for those recovering from addiction, and to pray for all those affected by addiction, especially family members.

As we know addiction takes many forms from alcohol, drugs, gambling, pornography to other less acknowledged addictions. To enrol someone in the Matt Talbot Prayer Society please

email vita@matttalbotprayersociety.com or private message St Eugene's

Cathedral Facebook page or phone St Eugene's Cathedral at 028 71262894/71365712.

Kildare & Leighlin Diocesan Mission Team

Will meet in the Parish Centre in Newbridge on Wednesday 19th April at 7.30pm which will last approximately 1 hour. We will be looking at ways in which we can promote mission awareness and the work of missionaries overseas during October Mission Month. It has been a very long time since we met before and we look forward to seeing you all in the parish centre in Newbridge. If you know of anyone who would like to come to our mission team meeting, please ask them to email me at jim.farrell@missio.ie or Fr George at pageorge26@gmail.com

All are most welcome.

National Eucharistic Adoration Pilgrimage to Knock

Calling All Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament in this Diocese, the National Eucharistic Adoration Pilgrimage to Knock is on Sunday 23rd April (2nd wk after Easter) and all are welcome. For contact the relevant people for bus enquiries from these area's Tullow, Carlow - Phone Brendan

0876537753, Ballylinan, Stradbally, Portlaoise - Phone Margaret
0879793005

Full Details and poster for download at www.eucharisticadoration.ie

Also See Local Churches for Poster and Schedule & Local Information.

Burren Outdoor Retreat. Sunday 16th to Tuesday 18th April

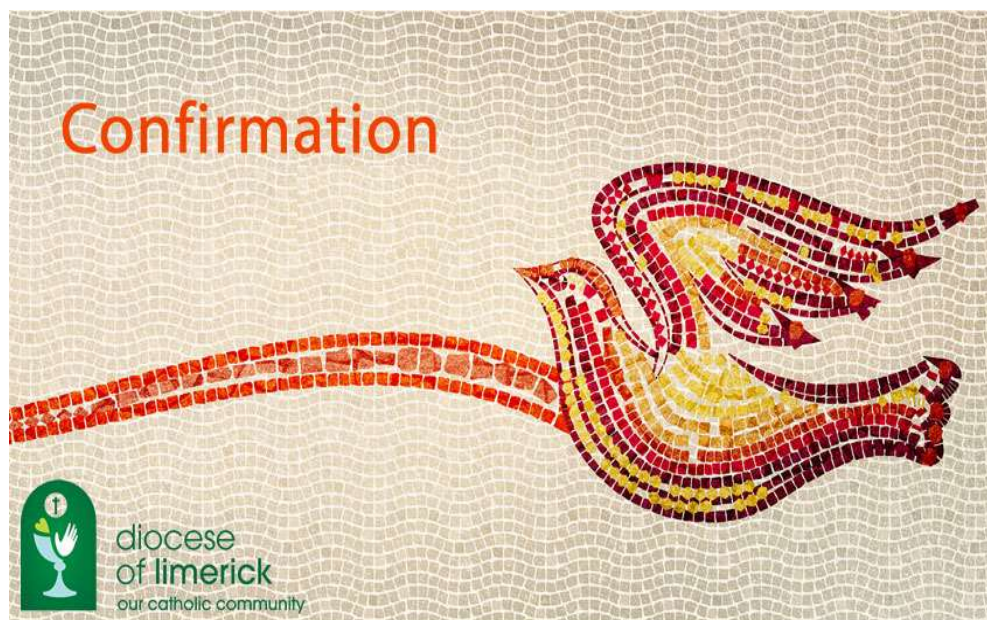
Would you like to come on a guided journey through the Burren with its limestone pavements, rare flora and ancient sacred sites? Let the beauty of the amazing Burren landscape renew you in body and soul. Information: Mary 087 970 1130. Booking: Des 085 1614951

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Portlaoise Parish to the Holy Land led by Mgr John Byrne, travelling from 7th Sept – 15th Sept 2023. Cost per person €2190, single supplement €769. Cost includes coach transfer from Portlaoise to Dublin airport return, flights, accommodation on half board basis, courier service in the Holy Land and a full religious programme. For more details please contact Tullys Travel Carlow on 059-9136100.

GUIDELINES FOR CELEBRATING THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION 2023

From the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin



Confirmation marks a unique moment in a person's life when one is invited to grow in faith and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, embrace a new maturity where all that has gone before takes on richer and deeper meaning further forming one as a faithful disciple, grateful steward, and active evangelist of the Risen Christ.

(Rev. Ronald Rolheiser - Secularity and the Gospel)

Theme for Confirmation 2023

'Making a choice to take my place in the tent'

'Enlarge the space of your tent, spread out your tent cloths unsparingly, lengthen your ropes and make firm your pegs' (Is 54:2).

'Listened to today, these words of Isaiah invite us to imagine the Church similarly as a tent, indeed as the tent of meeting, which accompanied the people on their journey through the desert: called to stretch out, therefore, but also to move. At its centre, stands the tabernacle, that is, the presence of the Lord. The tent's hold is ensured by the sturdiness of its pegs, that is, the fundamentals of faith that do not change but can be moved and planted in ever new ground, so that the tent can accompany the people as they walk through history. Finally, in order not to sag, the structure of the tent must keep in balance the different forces and tensions to which it is subjected: a metaphor that expresses the need for discernment. This is how many reports envision the Church: an expansive, but not homogeneous dwelling, capable of sheltering all, but open, letting in and out (cf. Jn. 10:9), and moving toward embracing the Father and all of humanity.'

Working Document for the Continental Stage 27

CELEBRATING CONFIRMATION IN 2023

These Guidelines are designed to help parishes, particularly those where Bishop Denis will preside, in their preparation and planning of the celebration of Confirmation. They will also help Bishop Denis in his preparation for the celebration in each parish.

It would be very helpful if parishes where Bishop Denis is not presiding at Confirmation this year would let Aisling know, by emailing aisling@kandle.ie, when their celebration is and

how many candidates are being confirmed. It is hoped that these guidelines will also be of use in those parishes.

CELEBRATING THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION OUTSIDE OF MASS

COVID 19 continues to impact on the way we gather and it is important to acknowledge that Confirmation celebrations may take place outside of Mass as allowed by Canon 882.

The experience of focusing on the Rite of Confirmation over the past three years was a very positive one for a significant number of people and it is hoped that parishes will choose to continue to celebrate Confirmation this way in the coming year.

There is a template for the celebration of the Rite of Confirmation on pages 7-11.

If you choose to celebrate Confirmation within the Eucharist, then further Guidelines are available from aisling@kandle.ie.

COVID19 & CONFIRMATION 2023

COVID 19 and a number of other infectious viruses continues to pose challenges for all communities. There continue to be significant numbers of children and staff absent daily in our school communities. It would be helpful for parishes to offer guidance in advance to parents based on the most up to date HSE advice available at the time. It would also be helpful for parishes to have contingency plans in place in the event that one or more candidates cannot present for Confirmation on the day.

BEFORE THE CELEBRATION TAKES PLACE: Bishop Denis asks that the Planning Form be completed and returned to him three weeks before the date of Confirmation in your parish.

Schools, please note that this form is sent to the parish to complete and return.

CONFIRMATION BOOKLETS: Parishes and schools are asked to consider carefully the environmental impact of printing booklets. If your parish is preparing a booklet for use on the day, please send a copy to Bishop Denis in advance.

The following notes are designed to help ensure the best possible experience of the celebration of Confirmation for all.

1: PARISH PREPARATION:

Bishop Denis would like a brief description of the type of preparation undertaken by the candidates and their families in the parish. This can be as simple as naming the preparation programme such as *You Shall Be My Witnesses*, *We Belong to Christ* or providing an outline of any initiatives used by the parish team to engage the candidates and their families in a programme of preparation in the months prior to Confirmation. This will enable him to encourage and affirm the work of preparation in the parish during the ceremony.

2: LETTER TO THE BISHOP: Bishop Denis would like all candidates who will be confirmed by him to submit a letter prior to Confirmation. This letter is to be written at home by the candidates in consultation with their parents/guardians and then signed by the candidates and their parents/guardians. The letters should then be sent by the parish to the bishop together with the enclosed form three weeks before the celebration of Confirmation in your parish. If your parish has multiple confirmations please ensure that the letters are bundled together and labelled with the names of schools and the corresponding Confirmation Ceremony. The following information should be included in the letters:

BIOGRAPHY: The candidate should introduce themselves to Bishop Denis using some of the following information

- Their name and age

- The name of their school and the class that they are in
- The name of their parish
- Something about their family
- Their interests/hobbies / favourite things to do

DESCRIPTION OF PREPARATION AT HOME, IN THE PARISH AND IN SCHOOL:

The candidate needs to say something to the bishop about how he or she has prepared to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

PERSONAL MEANING: The candidate should reflect on what the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation means to them.

CONFIRMATION NAME AND SPONSOR: The candidate should tell the bishop what name they are choosing and why. They might also say something about their sponsor and the reason for choosing this person.

FOR 2023: The candidate should say something to the bishop about each of the following:

- what would help them to be more involved in their parish community once they have been confirmed. This could be based on the discussion that they will have in class about their choice of word for the Poster that they will present to Bishop Denis on the day of Confirmation. This word will describe their hope for the church of the future. It might also be helpful for them to reference the following in their letters:

1) Do I know of any opportunities for me to be involved in my local parish community after Confirmation?

2) What could my local parish do to help me be more involved?

3) What would you say to Bishop Denis about how the church in Kildare & Leighlin could help you and other young people stay involved?

3: SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

The sacrament of reconciliation should be celebrated by all candidates prior to the celebration of Confirmation. A suggested outline for a Reconciliation Service and for a combined Reconciliation and Ceremony of Light Service is available for download on www.kandle.ie.

4: **RETREAT:** Many parishes provide candidates with the opportunity of a retreat before or after Confirmation.

5: **SPONSOR:** Each candidate has a sponsor for confirmation. The sponsor for any candidate may be male or female, is to be at least 16 years of age, a fully initiated Catholic and living a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken. A parent may not act as a sponsor for his or her child (Canon 874). A Baptismal sponsor is desired as the Confirmation sponsor, in order to emphasize the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation (Canon 893.2).

6: **PLEDGE:** The Pledge Commitment is an important part of the candidate's preparation. All parishes are expected to include a Pledge Commitment Ceremony as part of the preparation or post celebration process. You can find a copy of a Confirmation Pledge Certificate <https://app.growinlove.ie/en/user/professional-development>. There are also useful resources for exploring the Pledge on

https://www.irishbishopsdrugsinitiative.ie/what_we_do_category/confirmation-commitment/

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY:

Under the Diocesan Safeguarding Guidelines best practice would suggest that no photography or videography should take place in the Church. Therefore, the taking of photographs and of videos is not permitted during the ceremony and this must be communicated to candidates, parents/guardians, sponsors and family members prior to the celebration of Confirmation. This can be done at the rehearsal and on the day itself in the time before the liturgy begins. The turning off of mobile phones should also be requested at this time.

Stewards can help to ensure that the taking of photographs or videos is discouraged. Bishop Denis suggests that a group picture of him with the candidates be taken after the ceremony and that the organisation of this should be done at the rehearsal for Confirmation.

If a videographer is being used in an official capacity, he/she should be instructed not to distract from the solemn nature of the celebration and at no time should he/she enter the sanctuary area. Parental consent for the taking of the video must also be obtained from all parents in advance of the ceremony.

PRELUDE Five minutes before the Confirmation ceremony begins it is useful for the priest or other nominated person to begin preparing the congregation for the celebration which is to follow. This is an opportunity to quieten the gathering, remind them of the need to switch off mobile phones, not to take pictures and to invite them to spend a moment in quiet prayer for the candidates who are to be confirmed. This may be accompanied by some quiet instrumental music that can continue until the liturgy is ready to begin.

TEMPLATE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION 2023

CAN. 881 It is desirable to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation in a church and during Mass; for a just and reasonable cause, however, it can be celebrated outside Mass and in any worthy place.

GATHERING SONG: Suggestions for all music on pages 15

WORD OF WELCOME:

SIGN OF THE CROSS: As we begin our celebration let us mark ourselves with the sign of that faith as we did on the day of baptism:

You might consider inviting the parents to make the Sign of the Cross on their child's forehead as they did on the day of their baptism.....

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

If there is a space dedicated to symbols of the candidate's work in preparation for Confirmation

now would be an appropriate time to refer to it.

COLLECT:

Fulfill for us your gracious promise, O Lord, we pray.

so that by his coming the Holy Spirit may make us witnesses before the world to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD [Suggested Readings on page 12](#)

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The names of the candidates are called, and they stand as they are presented to the Presider and the community alternatively see the suggestion for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises where the candidate's names might also be called.

Homily

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

If baptismal candles are to be lit the priest could introduce the Renewal of Baptismal Promises

in these or similar words while standing near the Paschal Candle

Our Paschal Candle is a sign of hope for all who believe that Jesus is the light of the world, a light that can never be quenched, a light that will always brighten our way. On the day of your baptism your parents took light from the Paschal Candle to light your baptismal candle as a sign of the faith that they wanted to pass on to you. They were asked to keep the light burning brightly until you were ready to say yes to your faith for yourselves. They obviously have done a good job because you are here, ready to confirm what they did for you at baptism, ready to say yes to continuing to live as Jesus wants you to.

Now as they light your baptismal candle again, we pray that you will continue to walk as a child of the light and keep this light of faith burning brightly for all to see.

Each candidate and their parent/s are called forward individually, they light their baptismal candle and then return to their seats and remain standing

CELEBRANT: Do you renounce Satan,
And all his works and all his empty show?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: 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 seated at the right hand of the Father?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord, the giver of life, Who came upon the apostles at Pentecost And today is given to you sacramentally in Confirmation?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in the holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints, The forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

CANDIDATES: I do.

CELEBRANT: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.

We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

CANDIDATES: Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

CELEBRANT: My dear friends, In baptism God our Father gave the new birth of eternal life to his chosen sons and daughters.

Let us pray to our Father That he will pour out the Holy Spirit To strengthen his sons and daughters with his gifts And anoint them to be more like Christ, the Son of God.

The celebrant(s) stretch out their hands over the candidates and pray:

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 judgement and courage,

the spirit of knowledge and reverence.

Fill them with the spirit of wonder, and awe in your presence.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

ANointING WITH CHRISM

CELEBRANT: (Name), be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. CANDIDATE: Amen.

CELEBRANT: Peace be with you. CANDIDATE: And with your spirit.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL (see suggestions on pages 13 & 14)

We pray to the Lord: Lord hear our prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER ALL: Our Father.....

PRESENTATION OF POSTER TO BISHOP DENIS/CELEBRANT

The poster (no larger than an A2 size page) contains one word that, following discussion in their classroom, describes the church that the Confirmation candidates want to belong to, the church that they would like to help make a reality in the future. The poster can be decorated however the candidates decide.

CELEBRANT: Let us pray

Lord, help those you have anointed by your Spirit.

Support them through every trial

and by their works of love

build up the Church in holiness and joy

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

CONCLUDING RITE FINAL BLESSING & DISMISSAL

