

Confirmation Ceremony Check-list

1. Sacristy

1.1 Vestments (red) prepared for the Archbishop and concelebrants. Archbishop Diarmuid usually wears the parish's own red vestment.

1.2 When using incense please make sure there are no issues with smoke alarms in the church. Are smoke detectors disabled?

2. Order of Procession

2.1 Thurifer and boatbearer; Cross-bearer, candle-bearers, book-bearer, Deacon (or priest) with Book of the Gospels, concelebrants, Archbishop.

3. Entrance Procession

3.1 Concelebrants bow before and kiss the altar in pairs.

3.2 On arrival at sanctuary, before kissing the altar, the Archbishop hands away his mitre and crozier.

3.3 The Archbishop incenses the altar and the cross.

4. Greeting to the Gloria

4.1 After the Liturgical Greeting "*Peace be with you*" – now is the best time to bring forward any symbols of the candidates' giftedness, faith and preparation for Confirmation. They work best here as context-setters for what is about to be celebrated. Have a designated space or table on which they can be placed.

4.2 The Gloria may be sung or recited, but not during Lent.

5. Opening Prayer

5.1 See pages 1038-1042 of the Roman Missal for the choice of prayers. A selection of these are enclosed to assist you in preparing your ceremony text.

6. Readings

6.1 See the two Scripture texts suggested for Confirmation ceremonies in 2019.

6.2 Psalm (3 verses are sufficient) – please try not to replace the Responsorial Psalm with a hymn which is not from the Psalms.

6.3 On Sundays of Lent and Easter and on Solemnities the Mass of the Day and its readings are always used.

6.4 No Alleluia is sung during Lent (*please note that this also includes Hymns with the word Alleluia in them*)

7. Gospel

7.1 Proclaimed by the deacon/priest. Why not accompany the Gospel with candles and honour it with incense?.

8. Homily

8.1 Archbishop

9. Renewal of Baptismal Promises

9.1 The Archbishop invites the Candidates to stand. Please ensure the Candidates are prepared so as to answer the Renewal of Baptismal Promises with a strong voice and heartfelt conviction.

9.2 A Hymn invoking the Holy Spirit may be sung after the Renewal of Baptismal promises (*This is optional. If included, 2 verses are sufficient*).

[9.3 If candidates are being anointed whilst kneeling, the chair for Confirmation is now put in place.]

10. The Laying on of Hands

10.1 Candidates and congregation are invited to kneel (but they remain standing in Eastertime).

10.2 The concelebrating priests stand either side of the Archbishop.

10.3 Concelebrants extend their hands silently in prayer over the candidates at the appropriate time.

11. Anointing with Chrism

11.1 Archbishop receives the holy Oil of Chrism and takes his place at the front of sanctuary. Archbishop Martin normally administers the anointing with both he and the candidates standing.

11.2 The candidates line up for anointing and stand before him in pairs to facilitate anointing.

11.3 Sponsors place right hand on right shoulder of child. (*It is no longer necessary to hold back the candidate's hair. But please ensure that there is nothing completely blocking the candidate's forehead*)

11.4 Two priests or teachers or parish team members assist by calling out both the Christian and Confirmation name of each child as the celebrant anoints.

11.5 Make sure the candidates are well rehearsed for their responses: '*Amen*' and '*And with your spirit*'. The Archbishop often asks what inspired them to choose their particular Confirmation name.

11.6 Hymns can be sung and gentle reflections read during the anointing. Some instrumental music can also help maintain a spirit of prayer among the people.

11.7 After anointing, the Archbishop washes his hands (warm water, slices of lemon, cotton wool and a towel).

11.8 During washing of hands, those leading the intercessions come forward and anointing hymns/music comes to an end.

12. General Intercessions

12.1 Archbishop returns to president's chair, introduces Prayer of the Faithful.

12.2. Preparation of gifts - those presenting the gifts of Bread & Wine assemble.

12.3 The readers of the petitions remain at the ambo until Archbishop reads concluding prayer.

13. Preparation of Gifts

13.1 Only the Eucharistic gifts of bread and wine, what Christ took into his hands at the Last Supper, are presented at this point.

13.2 Gifts, altar are incensed by the Archbishop. The Archbishop, concelebrants and all the faithful may also be incensed at this time.

14. Eucharistic Prayers

14.1 When one of the Children's Eucharistic Prayers with extra responses is used, these should have been well-rehearsed; it helps if one priest leads them.

15. Our Father and distribution of Holy Communion

15.1 It may be recited or sung in Irish or English.

15.2 The Archbishop assists with distribution of Holy Communion.

15.3 If children wear gloves they need to remove them or receive Holy Communion on the tongue.

15.4 Communion hymns conclude when distribution is completed.

16. Post Communion Prayer

16.1 A parish team member may wish to add a brief word of appreciation after the Post Communion Prayer. An announcement can be made that the Archbishop will be happy to meet the candidates, sponsors and their families outside for photographs at the main door of the Church (weather permitting). If it's raining, arrange some other appropriate location inside the church but ideally away from the sanctuary.

17. Final Blessing

17.1 After the final blessing, the sanctuary party process out (see order in no 2).

18. Meeting with teachers

18.1 A priest of the parish should introduce the teachers involved with the Confirmation classes to the Archbishop.

REQUISITES

- ⊕ Microphones (with the volume a little above normal due to the crowd):
At the Ambo, Altar and the Presider's chair (stand microphone).
- ⊕ Corporals: large corporal on altar (or 3 smaller corporals)
- ⊕ Tables: Eucharistic gifts of bread and wine, credence.
- ⊕ Chrism (brought by the Archbishop)
- ⊕ Thurible, charcoal, incense.
- ⊕ Lavabo bowl, finger towel and a jug with warm water and bowl for washing Archbishop's hands after the anointing, with lemon, cotton wool and towel.
- ⊕ Chair - for anointing, if candidates are kneeling. Archbishop Martin has a preference for administering the anointing standing.
- ⊕ It is recommended that an animator for congregational singing be appointed to assist and encourage everyone in the singing.
- ⊕ Consider arranging a PPC member, parent or even a candidate to speak some minutes before the ceremony begins to encourage everyone to sing, make sure mobile phones are switched off and to ask everyone to help keep a prayerful atmosphere throughout the entire ceremony, especially during the times of the Anointing and distribution of Holy Communion.

Celebration of Confirmation Ceremony Notes 2019

"In Confirmation, Jesus fills us with his Spirit and makes us sharers in his own life and mission... It is a further spiritual anointing that completes the grace of Baptism and leads us to the Eucharist... the Church prays that we too may receive the gifts and fruits of the Spirit that enable us to help the body of Christ to grow... The gift of the Holy Spirit, received in the sacrament, enables us in turn to become a gift for others within the communion of the Church... May we who have received this sacrament open our hearts each day to the liberating breath of the Holy Spirit and fan into a flame the gifts we have received for the good of one another, the whole Church and the world in which we live."

POPE FRANCIS,

General Audiences, St Peter's Square, 23rd Mat to 6th June 2018.

