**Confirmation in times of COVID 19: some ceremony advice**  
Often parishes would have offered candidates for Confirmation a time of retreat, the prayer support of faith friends from the parish, a Ceremony of Light and times of rehearsal for the main ceremony itself. These may not be physically possible at present. But do not let this stop you and your parish team from exploring creative ideas within the parameters of what is possible within current health guidelines.   
  
The fine support and talents of our Catholic school teachers may also not be available to you, especially if there is the necessity of multiple ceremonies to accommodate candidates, sponsors and family members safely. In this situation, Parish ministers can welcome the people and get them safely seated, provide necessary brief commentary before the liturgy, proclaim the Word, assist with the naming of the candidates as they approach for anointing, lead prayers of intercession and help animate singing. Confirmation is a Sacrament of Initiation into the living Body of Christ as it gathers in your parish. So it would be a wonderful sign of this if the parish team can rally around the celebration to make it a full one. It would be very appropriate if the hymns chosen were drawn from the many Holy Spirit themed anthems in the *Grow in Love* programme or from recent Dublin Diocese ***Laudate*** sacred music events.   
  
Especially if you have to do many ceremonies in your parish, keep them simple. 2020 Confirmation ceremony Texts and Resources can be found here: <http://litmus.dublindiocese.ie/category/confirmation/>

These include sample scripture readings for 2020, Sample Confirmation texts when the sacrament is celebrated within the Eucharist, and a sample text for the celebration of Confirmation outside of the Eucharist. We also provide some sample prayers to the Holy Spirit which parents as well as candidates might like to explore. It is hoped that the Irish Bishops Conference will soon be providing three videos to help parents prepare their children for Confirmation.   
  
For the Anointing with the holy Oil of Chrism an individual cotton bud can be dipped in Chrism, the candidate's forehead anointed and then the bud disposed of.

As for the time of Confirmation ceremonies, perhaps some of these could take place at 7pm on a weekday to help facilitate those families who find it difficult to get child minders.