



As a sponsor you are invited to:

- ◆ *Pray for the candidate*
- ◆ *Show interest in the young adult's preparation for Confirmation - Ask them questions!!!*
- ◆ *Help the young person become aware of his/her reasons for receiving this sacrament.*
- ◆ *Help choose their Confirmation name.*
- ◆ *Help them to become actively involved in the life of their parish & community.*
- ◆ *Support them and their family, and be a good example of Catholic Christian living.*
- ◆ *Present them with a Bible or a religious symbol on their Confirmation day.*
- ◆ *Continue to encourage & support them after the Confirmation Day*
- ◆ *Find five other adults who are going to pray for this young person.*
- ◆ *Ask the young person to pray for you!*

"The role of the Confirmation Sponsor involves much more than simply standing behind the Candidate as the bishop confirms. It is the beginning or the continuation of a lasting relationship of mentoring, support and guidance."

A SPONSOR'S PRAYER

Loving God,
You send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people, so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent. Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation as they prepare this sacrament. Open their hearts to Your Spirit and bring to fulfilment the good work that You have begun in them.

As I journey with _____, make me an instrument of Your love. Teach me to hold sacred what is holy in others, and to be patient with what I do not understand.
Deepen my faith in the Gospel and help me to pass it on by my example.
When hesitant or afraid, let me be a source of encouragement; and
with those who are suffering, let me be a witness to your compassion.
I humbly accept the ministry of sponsor and pray that You will continue to guide me, support me and sustain me.
I ask this in trust through Christ our Lord. Amen

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF
THE B.V.M. AND ST KILLIAN**

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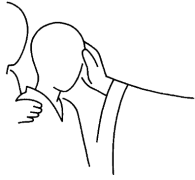


A sponsor is always there

in

faith, love and prayer

Congratulations!



You have been chosen by a young person for a special role, to sponsor them in their year to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is an honour that they chose you to help them prepare for this great Sacrament. It means that they recognize you as a catholic who takes their faith and their relationship with Christ seriously. The candidate sees you as a person growing in faith and as a good role model of witnessing to the faith. The Church recognises sponsors as people who are guides, models, friends, companions, and witnesses. So you are embarking on a shared journey with the candidate, a journey that can enrich both your lives!

Our Tradition

The tradition of involving a sponsor in the preparation of candidates for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation is a very old tradition in the Catholic faith. The sponsor was a **living witness** and mentor who represented the values, beliefs and lifestyle of the Christian community. The sponsor would, in turn, witness to the community regarding the candidates' readiness to be baptised into the faith community. The role of a sponsor was seen as a **lifetime commitment**, a relationship that would last throughout the individual's journey of faith.



Being a sponsor requires a big commitment from you: it will involve sharing your faith, preparing the young person with their parents, parish and school to become full members of the Church.

It is an **ACTIVE** role.

A Sponsor must be...

- A member of the Catholic Church who is fully initiated by Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- A mature person at least 16yrs old
- Be willing to share the faith with the candidate
- Be an example of good Christian living

Your Role As Sponsor

- To show an interest in and support the developing faith of the young person.
- To accompany the person being confirmed on their faith journey.
- To give witness to the faith and model good Christian values.
- To be a good listener and ask the questions that encourage the candidate's thinking.
- To take an interest in the person's religious education and take responsibility for it should that become necessary.

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Deepens our belonging to the faith community.

Deepens our relationship to God, as Creator, Redeemer and Spirit.

Strengthens us as disciples.

*A Sacrament is God's
love
expressed*

It is an encounter with Christ.

It completes Baptism.

The Oil of Chrism which the candidate is anointed with, is a symbol of joy, strength and health. People anointed with chrism are supposed to spread "the aroma of Christ" (2 Cor 2:15)

