

CONFIRMATION

2023/2024

INTRODUCTORY MEETING

FR. PAWEL BIELAK, 9th OCTOBER 2023

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BAPTISMAL PROMISE

You have asked to have your child baptised. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

PROMISE = to tell someone that you will certainly do something
(From Cambridge Dictionary)

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APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION *FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO* OF POPE JOHN PAUL II
ON THE ROLE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY IN THE MODERN WORLD (22nd NOVEMBER 1981)

The Right and Duty of Parents Regarding Education (36)

- The task of giving education is rooted in the primary vocation of married couples to participate in God's creative activity (...)
- As the Second Vatican Council recalled, "since parents have conferred life on their children, they have a most solemn obligation to educate their offspring.

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The Right and Duty of Parents Regarding Education (36. Continued)

- Parents must be acknowledged as the first and foremost educators of their children. Their role as educators is so decisive that scarcely anything can compensate for their failure in it.
- It cannot be forgotten that the most basic element, so basic that it qualifies the educational role of parents, is parental love (...)
- Parental love is the norm inspiring and guiding all concrete educational activity, enriching it with the values of kindness, constancy, goodness, service, disinterestedness and self-sacrifice that are the most precious fruit of love.

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Family Prayer (59)

- Family prayer has its own characteristic qualities. It is prayer offered in common, husband and wife together, parents and children together.
- “Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:19)

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Family Prayer (59)

- Family prayer has for its very own object family life itself.
- Joys and sorrows, hopes and disappointments, births and birthday celebrations, wedding anniversaries of the parents, departures, separations and homecomings, important and far-reaching decisions, the death of those who are dear, etc.- all of these mark God's loving intervention in the family's history.

NAME:

DATE:

WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SUBJECT.....						
INTENTION						
MY PRAYER						
SPIRITUAL READING						

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Family Prayer (59)

- They should be seen as suitable moments for thanksgiving, for petition, for trusting abandonment of the family into the hands of their common Father in heaven. The dignity and responsibility of the Christian family as the domestic Church can be achieved only with God's unceasing aid, which will surely be granted if it is humbly and trustingly petitioned in prayer.

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Educators in Prayer

60. By reason of their dignity and mission, Christian parents have the specific responsibility of educating their children in prayer, introducing them to gradual discovery of the mystery of God and to personal dialogue with Him:

“from the earliest years children should be taught, according to the faith received in Baptism, to have a knowledge of God, to worship Him and to love their neighbour.”

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Educators in Prayer (60. Continued)

The concrete example and living witness of parents is fundamental and irreplaceable in educating their children to pray. Only by praying together with their children can a father and mother (...) penetrate the innermost depths of their children's hearts and leave an impression that the future events in their lives will not be able to efface.

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Educators in Prayer (60. Continued)

Let us again listen to the appeal made by Paul VI to parents: "Mothers, do you teach your children the Christian prayers? Do you prepare them, in conjunction with the priests, for the sacraments that they receive when they are young: Confession, Communion and Confirmation? Do you encourage them when they are sick to think of Christ suffering to invoke the aid of the Blessed Virgin and the saints Do you say the family rosary together? And you, fathers, do you pray with your children, with the whole domestic community, at least sometimes? Your example of honesty in thought and action, joined to some common prayer, is a lesson for life, an act of worship of singular value. In this way you bring peace to your homes. Remember, it is thus that you build up the Church."

(General Audience Address, Aug. 11, 1976)

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THE SACRAMENTS OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

CCC 1285 Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the "sacraments of Christian initiation," whose unity must be safeguarded. **It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace.** For "by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptised] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed."

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THE PERSONS TO BE CONFIRMED (from Canon Law)

Can. 889

§1 Every **baptised person** who is not confirmed, and only such a person, is capable of receiving confirmation.

Can. 890 The faithful are bound to receive this sacrament at the proper time. Parents and pastors of souls, **especially parish priests, are to see that the faithful are properly instructed** to receive the sacrament and come to it at the opportune time.

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SPONSORS (from Canon Law)

Can. 892 As far as possible the person to be confirmed is to have a sponsor. The sponsor's function is to take care that the person confirmed behaves as a **true witness of Christ** and **faithfully fulfils the duties** inherent in this sacrament.

Can. 893

§1 A person who would undertake the office of sponsor must fulfil the conditions mentioned in can. 874 which reads:

§1 To be admitted to undertake the office of sponsor, a person must:

- 1° be appointed by the candidate for baptism, or by the parents or whoever stands in their place (...)
to be appointed the person must be suitable for this role and have the intention of fulfilling it;
- 2° be not less than sixteen years of age
- 3° be a catholic who has been confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist
and who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken;
- 4° not labor under a canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared;
- 5° **not be either the father or the mother** of the person to be baptised.

§2 It is desirable that **the sponsor chosen be the one who undertook this role at baptism.**

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SPONSOR CARD

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR CARD

CONDITIONS	TICK
I am sixteen years of age or older	
I am a catholic who has been confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist, and who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken	
I am not the parent of the candidate	
I will attend the Confirmation Mass	
I will prepare for my role by going to Confession and receiving Holy Communion close to the Confirmation Mass date.	
I consent to the promise below	

Promise of Sponsor

I accept the privilege of being Sponsor at Confirmation. I understand the chief duty is to give a good example. I intend by God’s grace to be regular in my attendance at Holy Mass and the Sacraments.

SPONSOR’S FULL NAME:
(BLOCK CAPITALS)

SPONSOR’S SIGNATURE:

DATE:

To be completed later by the candidate (BLOCK CAPITALS)

CANDIDATE’S FULL NAME:
.....

PATRON SAINT’S NAME:

Please ensure this card is returned to the family by Christmas as they are required to submit it on 8th January 2024.

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Practical information

- Lessons schedule
- Topics
- Commitment Mass: 15th October 2023 at 10 am
- Bidding prayers
- Day of Confirmation (Friday 24th May 2024: 2pm - Parish Hall, 6pm - Mass)
- Folders
- Conditions of Acceptance
- Parents' meetings (27th Nov - DVD, 15th Jan, 19 Feb, 8th April, 13th May - Prep. for Confession&Queries)
- No drinks or food
- THE CHOSEN (<https://watch.thechosen.tv/>)
- Q&A

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Conditions of Acceptance

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE:

We have read all the information in the enclosed Sacramental Preparation Pack. We agree to commit to:

- attend all the required parental and candidate's sessions of catechesis
- complete all homework (with parental support as far as possible)
- being punctual: arrive before 6 pm so lessons can start promptly
- producing proof of attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation in any parish (signature of the priest in the attendance book)
- pray and talk about the Faith together as a family
- paying £25 towards the cost of resources and materials which will be used. A £5 deposit is required to cover the use of library books (returnable at the end of the course if all books have been returned).

We accept that more than 3 absences and missing more than 3 week's homework will result in the candidate's confirmation being postponed until a future year.