This booklet is offered as a resource which schools and parishes may adapt to their own situation and circumstances. Two versions of the booklet are offered, a booklet for the candidates and congregation and a more extended booklet for Teachers which includes all the sample texts. The Commentary on the Symbols has been omitted from the Congregational booklet. Each booklet has 16 pages (A5) which is four A4 pages printed in landscape format. The Congregational booklet has some blank pages at the end for the names of the candidates and the words of any hymns not included in the text.

**Notes re the Sample Confirmation Booklet**

Bishop Fintan has asked that throughout the diocese the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2018 will be linked to the forthcoming World Meeting of Families which will be held in Dublin in August 2018. The prayers and texts in the pages which follow reflect this theme.

1. **The Gathering Rite**

**Suitable Music for the Gathering Rite**

**Holy Spirit Come Into Our Lives (Ken Canedo)**

**Downloadable at** <https://www.ocp.org/en-us/songs/30945>

**Come Holy Spirit (***Bernard Sexton – Confirming our Children***)
Christ be our Light (***Bernadette Farrell – Confirming our Children***)**

**Fan the Flame** *(Liam Lawton – Confirming our Children)* **Christ be beside me (***Traditional Irish – In Caelo)* **Holy Spirit Lord of Love (***Traditional Irish - In Caelo)* **This day God gives me strength of high heaven
Holy Spirit confirm us today
Song of Confirmation *(what a Spirit filled day)***

***This is the Day by Bernard Sexton***

***Hear it at this link:*** [***https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHwN\_WZbrfg***](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHwN_WZbrfg)

**The order of the Opening Procession is as follows:**

Thurifer and boatbearer; Cross-bearer, candle-bearers, book-bearer, Priest with the Book of the Gospels, concelebrants, Bishop Fintan.

**The Procession of Symbols**

This year the Procession of Symbols links to the World Meeting of Families 2018 which will be held in Dublin in August. A commentary for the symbols below is provided in the teachers’ booklet. Schools are free to adapt and include other symbols appropriate to the theme or to the children’s interests.

1. Letter of Pope Francis – The Joy of Love or a picture of Pope Francis.
2. The Circle of Family
3. The Bible or Book of the Gospels
4. Three big words ‘Please’, ‘Thank You’ ‘Sorry’.
5. The Candle of Hope
6. The Candle of Faith
7. Trócaire Box or display of a charity the class has visited or helped
8. Football/ musical instruments / art pieces
9. Log of Random Acts of Kindness
10. Chrism
11. The Icon of the World Meeting of Families

If more than six symbols are carried forward to the sacred space, the commentator takes them two at a time. In this case two candidates go forward side by side in procession to the altar.

If there are a lot of symbols why not use two commentators as a change of voice helps people to stay focused?

1. **The Liturgy of the Word**

**First Reading: Select from this list, according to the time of the year.**

**http://www.killaloediocese.ie/education/primary-atechetics.html**

**The Psalm**

* Please try not to replace the Responsorial Psalm with a hymn which is not from the Psalms. (*Here I Am Lord,* for example, is not a psalm).
* Psalms of praise from the Alive O or Grow in Love Programme are appropriate. Check what the children already know and see if one is suitable.
* Three verses of the psalm are sufficient.
* The psalm Send Forth Your Spirit Lord is particularly suited for confirmation.

*Send forth your Spirit O Lord*

*And renew the face of the earth.*

Bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are,

clothed in majesty and glory,

wrapped in light as in a robe. R/.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys,

They flow in between the hills.

On their bank dwell the birds of heaven,

From the branches they sing their song. R/.

How many are your works O Lord

In Wisdom you have made them all.

The earth is full of your riches,

Bless the Lord, my soul. R/.

Here are some tuneful sung responses

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMXHEMjfmqw>

<https://www.shazam.com/track/57415664/send-forth-your-spirit> - (Liam Lawton’s version)

* It is not necessary to sing the whole of the Psalm. Why not sing the refrain and have the verses read from the Ambo? Liam Lawton for example has a lovely sung response.
* You will find other sung versions at these links.

<https://www.ocp.org/en-us/songs/11132#tab:products>

or

<https://www.giamusic.com/store/resource/psalms-for-the-church-year-recording-cd310>

* The Common Psalm by Bernadette Farrell is also a very useful piece. You can find it at this link. <https://www.shazam.com/track/54991243/common-psalm> The response is an Alleluia so it cannot be used during Lent.
* Sing a Psalm to the Lord’s Holy Name (Psalm 95) by Liam Lawton is also a lovely psalm to sing.

**The Second Reading: 1 Cor 13: 2-3**

This text is proposed for use as the second reading in all celebrations of Confirmation across the diocese this year as it links to the Year of the Family. It is the Spirit who teaches us how to love.

**The Alleluia Verse** is changed to an acclamation of praise during Lent. Inviting everyone to read the verse is a way of involving the whole congregation.

**The Gospel Reading**

This text given in the booklet may be changed to one selected from the diocesan list.

**Music for The Rite of Confirmation - During the Anointing with Chrism**

 **Spirit of the Living God** *(Hymns Old and New)*

**Tar anuas a Spioraid Naoimh** *(Ite O’Donovan – In Caelo)*

**Tar chugam, A Spioraid Naoimh** *(Máire Nuinseann – Confirming our Children)* **Veni Creator Spiritus** *(Plainchant – Confirming our Children)* **Father in my life I see**

**You shall be my witnesses
Lay your hands gently upon us** *(Carey Landry)*

**Be still and know that I am God
Veni Sancte Spiritus** *(Taizé)*

Ian Callanan’s **Veni, Come Holy Spirit** is suggested as a very good piece for the Presentation of Candidates and Anointing with Chrism. This may be found at this link:

<http://iancallanan.com/download/veni-come-holy-spirit/>

or contact mkelly@killaloediocese.ie

A piece like this which carries the meaning of the celebration bears repetition during the celebration. If there are a lot of candidates for confirmation why not repeat the verses or have different voices singing them to make it longer. Another approach is to bring in instruments for the verses and have everyone sing the chorus.

1. **The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

**The Rite of Communion**

We distinguish between the music for the procession as people come to Receive the Lord in Holy Communion and a more reflective style of music which helps people to reflect after communion. Using one piece of music during the Procession to Communion helps to keep the unity of the communion rite. If you run out of verses don’t be afraid to repeat them or to have the verses played instrumentally.

Reflective instrumental music is also very effective in the moments after communion as it helps to create a quite atmosphere. The reflective atmosphere after communion can be deepened by the singing of a piece with meaningful words.

**Post Communion Reflection**

Since this year we are linking the celebration of Confirmation with the World Meeting of Families our suggestion is that this year we would use the hymn for the World Meeting of Families after Communion. It is not expected that the children would learn the verses as they are complex musically. It is suggested that the refrain be sung and that the verses be read by different voices.

1. **We Are Sent**

The Recessional Hymn sends us out to live what we have proclaimed in the liturgy. Joyful, lively melodies work best here. It is not necessary to keep to the one in the sample text.