

Our Lady of Mount Carmel & Saint George

with Our Lady of Walsingham & the English Martyrs

CONFIRMATION APPLICATION FORM 2018

Thank you for enquiring about the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please read this letter carefully as it contains important information about the preparation and celebration of Confirmation in our parish.

Who can apply to join the Confirmation Preparation Programme?

You can apply if you are a baptised Catholic, a parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel & Saint George, and will be at least 13 years old by 31st August this year. The closing date for applications is **31st July**.

Why prepare for Confirmation?

This time of preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is an opportunity for you to make a personal decision that God is at the centre of your life and that you want to explore more fully what your Catholic faith means to you.

What does the Confirmation Programme involve?

For the Confirmation Programme, we use a resource called '**Decision Point**' – recognised as one of the best Confirmation Programmes available. The programme is based on the *Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*: prayer, study, generosity and evangelisation. We very much hope that this programme will not only prepare you for the Sacrament of Confirmation in a dynamic way, but also teach and inspire you to respond and cooperate with God's grace in every circumstance of your daily life well past receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation itself. In addition to participating in the twelve sessions of the programme, you will be able to follow the programme online, as well as on an 'app' on your mobile or tablet. To find out more about the programme: <http://dynamiccatholic.com/confirmation/> Parents and sponsors can also follow the programme online or via the 'app'.

Meeting for parents/guardians and candidates

The programme will begin with a parent(s)/guardian(s) and candidate induction/meeting on **Monday, 17th September at 7pm** in the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel & Saint George.

When are the sessions?

The programme will run from September to May with six sessions before Christmas, six sessions after Christmas and a one-day retreat with Sacrament of Reconciliation, before the end of Eastertide. Sessions on Monday and Wednesday are from 7-8.30pm with a maximum of 40 candidates each evening, and Saturday from 11am-12.30pm with a maximum of 20 candidates. The size of the group is dictated by the size of the room.

Support of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

The role of parent(s)/guardian(s) in this journey is extremely important. Your child might not be ready for Confirmation at this point, but you can greatly help them by encouraging them to begin the journey. Continue to be a great role model for them. Ensure they attend every session, that they are punctual, that they attend Mass every Sunday, that you pray with and for them, and that you share with them the importance of your Catholic faith. Preparation for Confirmation doesn't mean that your child will know everything about the faith by the end of the programme. Rather, it is about them being willing to continue to grow in their understanding of the faith and what the Church teaches.

Delivery of the Programme

Our parish is blessed with volunteers who very generously help with the delivery of the programme. However, to enable us to provide the best catechetical experience for your child, we rely on the additional

help and support from you (parents/guardians/grandparents/sponsors). We will offer you training and support before and throughout the programme. All materials are available on line and work books will be available for use at each session. If you are able to volunteer and wish to help with the programme, please let us know your availability by completing the appropriate section of the application form. We are very grateful for your support.

Safeguarding

Safety of the young people in our care is paramount to us. Therefore, every adult helping with the programme will require a Westminster Diocesan DBS check to be carried out by the parish safeguarding representative.

Sponsor for Confirmation

All Confirmation candidates will require a sponsor. Ideally, the sponsor will be one of the godparents chosen at Baptism, but another sponsor may be chosen. A parent cannot be a sponsor for their own child. The sponsor chosen by the candidate must be an adult Catholic (16 years and above) who has received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The sponsor must be a practising Catholic, attend Mass every Sunday and be a good witness to the Catholic faith by their way of life. The sponsor should be prepared to pray for and support the candidate throughout life, especially in times of spiritual need or difficulty. Please begin thinking who your sponsor might be.

Confirmation Name

Your Confirmation name may be your baptismal name or you may choose another name. Please begin thinking what name you would like to take and do your research. This will be shared with your group at the Confirmation session.

Confirmation Retreat

A one-day retreat with Sacrament of Reconciliation is an integral part of the Confirmation programme. Candidates must attend the retreat in order to be confirmed.

Confirmation Service Project

Each candidate is required to undertake a service project, contributing a minimum of 12 hours. Please refer to the application for the list of possible service projects.

Cost of the Programme

This is **£40** and covers the cost of materials used in the programme and the retreat. Cheques to be payable to 'Our Lady and Saint George'.

When will the Confirmation celebration take place?

The Confirmation Mass will take place in Eastertide, depending on the Bishop's availability. There will be three Confirmation Masses. Candidates are divided alphabetically across the three Masses.

Enrolment Promises for candidates

By asking to enrol as a candidate for Confirmation, you promise to take an active part in the weekly sessions, service project, retreat and other activities offered as part of the Confirmation programme, to attend Mass every Sunday, to be open to the Holy Spirit, to deepen your faith and to cooperate with catechists in every way possible. You now take responsibility for the promises made on your behalf at Baptism and you promise to share more fully in the life of the Church.

Queries

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Catechetical Coordinator via email (sybillee@rcdow.org.uk) or by telephoning the presbytery (020 8363 2569).

Return of your Application Form

Please return the completed form in an A4 envelope to the presbytery marked 'for the attention of Sybil Lee' by **31st July**. We look forward to welcoming you to the programme.