

Dear Children, Parents & Guardians,

Our parish, in order to have all our children celebrate together, will gather in the Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar where the Confirmation Ceremony will take place at 2pm on Thursday 9th February 2023.

The Ceremony will be the Liturgy of the Word and the Sacrament of Confirmation alone without the Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist.

Seats/pews will be allocated according to each family on arrival at the Cathedral. Ushers will guide you on the day. Everyone is asked to please arrive early and be seated by 1:40pm. Your patient cooperation will be greatly appreciated on the day. Please also respect the continued social distancing and hygiene regulations. There will be no rehearsal. You are kindly reminded not to take photographs during the ceremony. An official parish photographer will be present taking photos if you so wish to avail of this service.

The Confirmation candidate does not have to bring anything on the day. The Bishop will, however, bless any religious objects they might have received as gifts.

The confirmation candidate and their sponsor will be called forward to present themselves to the Bishop as usual during the ceremony. The class teacher will bring a card with your child's confirmation name clearly written on it. The sponsor will hold this with the name facing the Bishop when the candidate kneels before the bishop. The sponsor's other hand should then be placed on the child's shoulder. When approaching and leaving the Bishop, both candidate and sponsor make a reverent bow. Ushers will guide everyone.

At the end of the ceremony Bishop Tom will give the confirmation candidates the opportunity to take the Pledge. This is a special commitment to refrain from alcohol and drugs; something for every young person to consider and discuss with their parents/guardians. Bishop Tom would encourage each candidate to take the pledge thus seeking the grace of God's Holy Spirit to protect and guide our youth in the challenging environment of the world around them. The words should be said clearly, with the Bishop, by all taking the pledge.

There will be an opportunity for photos with the Bishop after the ceremony. If weather conditions permit photographs will be taken at the cathedral door.

If you have any further questions or queries please contact the school or Fr. Stan.