

Parochial House,
Garisker,
Broadford,
Naas,
Co. Kildare.

5 March 2026

To all the Confirmation Parents

Dear Friends

I hope that you are all looking forward to the celebration of Confirmation next Thursday and that it will be a memorable and happy day.

On the evening before, we will have our time of Confession and the ceremony of light and pledge. Confessions will be available for candidates and anyone else from 5.00-6.00 for the first group (Broadford & Clogherinkoe), followed by the ceremony of light and the pledge. This is a short and simple ceremony and a beautiful prayerful way for the candidates and families to concentrate on the gift of the Spirit in the lives of these children. Please remember to bring the baptism candle and the pledges should be prepared beforehand and left in a sealed envelope (marked with the name on the outside) in the basket at the Altar beforehand. Then the process is repeated for the second group (Cadamstown & Johnstownbridge) Confessions from 7.00-8.00pm, with the ceremony at 8.00pm.

There are a few practical points about the ceremony that I would like to outline.

The candidates will be seated in alphabetical order (parents or guardians who wish to obtain in advance the number at which their child will be seated can contact the parish office). Each candidate will sit at the end of the bench and the sponsor will be seated alongside. After that each family can bring as many as can safely sit in the bench to join the candidate. While this may vary, according to the proportion of children and adults, the normal maximum is about 7 persons (including candidate and sponsor). At the earlier ceremony there will be a total of 31 candidates for 32 benches, which does not allow for any extra seats at the back. There will be slightly more spare seating room at the back at the second ceremony. Standing only space at the back of the church will also be limited. I would like to alert you all to this now before anyone assumes that there will be availability of space for guests outside those limited numbers. While I am sure that many of you would like to have more family and friends in attendance, it may not be possible on the day.

The candidates will remain with their families until the names are called. When each candidate hears his/her name, he/she will stand up, answer "**Present**" and move forward to take up position at the front of the Altar, accompanied by the sponsor. Each takes a place marked with the same number as the seat in a semi-circle around the Altar. The candidates and sponsors remain in place until the end of the ceremony, when they will be invited to process out with the Bishop and celebrants.

Bishop Nulty will preside at the ceremony and the Confirmation will be a liturgy of the Word, without Mass. Again, it will be a dignified and gentle ceremony that focuses on the gift of the Spirit in the life of the Church and in the lives of these young people. For those who would like to conclude the day with Mass, Mass will be celebrated in Johnstownbridge that evening at 7.30pm.

On a practical level, we would ask each candidate to register at the door on arrival. I would suggest that people arrive about 20 minutes beforehand. Each candidate should bring a card with his/her first name and then chosen confirmation name printed in large print on one side and with the candidate's full name and the sponsor's name on the back.

There is limited parking in the carpark opposite the church. Normally only people with serious mobility issues park in the church grounds and we would ask everyone to respect that. If people with mobility issues are parking in the church grounds, we would ask them to be vigilant as there will be many high-spirited children and young people in the area. **The entire area to the front of the church (tarmac drive and lawns) should be free from any parked cars.** There is a single toilet available under the bell tower at the back of the church.

Hopefully the weather will be clement and allow people to meet Bishop Nulty outside afterwards for a few words and some photographs. The daffodils should be in full bloom by then to provide a lovely backdrop!

Best wishes to your parents and to your families!

God bless!

Fr. Seán