


DIOCESE OF  SALFORD  
Confirmation 2023.  
Final Instructions

## Please Read Carefully

Dear Parents (and Students),

Confirmation will take place in 2 churches over the weekend of Pentecost:

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May at St Anne's, Ashton for St. Damian's students and others in the Deanery of Ashton; this service will begin at 6:30pm.**

**Families are asked to be seated in church half an hour before the start (ie. 6pm)**  
**NB. allow time for parking your car .. big numbers expected and limited space**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May at St Mary's, Failsworth for Newman College students and other students attending schools in Oldham; this service will begin at 1pm.**

**Families are asked to be seated in church half an hour before the start (ie. 12.30pm)**  
**NB. allow time for parking your car .. big numbers expected and limited space.**

Please Note :

- students are expected to dress "smart casual" (respectful of the importance of the occasion)
- a single bench will be assigned to each family (on arrival stewards will walk you to your place)
- the service will be non-Eucharistic (ie. not a Mass)
- students will be called by name when it is their turn to step forward to be Confirmed
- each student must have a Catholic sponsor; he/she will accompany the student to the altar and place his/her right hand on the student's right shoulder
- the student should have selected a Confirmation name and speak it clearly to the Bishop when asked
- ONE family member will also be permitted to step forward to take a photograph (from a fixed position to the side of the altar (this will be pointed out on the day)
- after receiving the Holy Spirit, the student & sponsor will be directed to the side where they will be presented with their certificate and directed back to their bench
- there will be no after-service refreshments (students will celebrate in school the following week)

**EVERYONE PRESENT is asked to 'play their part' in maintaining the dignity and solemnity of the occasion – this means join in with the singing & responses AND NOT CHATTERING IN BETWEEN TIMES, ESPECIALLY AFTER YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN CONFIRMED, WHEN OTHERS MAY STILL BE AWAITING THEIR TURN (the event will be spoilt if the atmosphere is lost through noise!).**

And finally ... the Confirmation Preparation Team would like to say a big thank you to staff at Newman College & St. Damian's College for all their support, and especially to all students who have been wonderfully respectful throughout the preparation sessions. We hope, for all family members, this occasion will mark a new beginning & an even stronger commitment to the Faith.

God bless and keep you safe,  
Fr. Callum Brown (on behalf of the Deanery)

**Please see additional note (below) about the final student meeting on Wed. 17<sup>th</sup> May.**

# **Final Student Preparation Meeting**

## **6pm at St.Edward's Church, Lees**

(the most important session, not to be missed)

Next Wednesday (17<sup>th</sup> May) marks the final preparation meeting at St. Edward's. Students have already been told that part of the session will feature "Reconciliation" where students will take the opportunity to 'clear the decks' of past failings and celebrate a fresh start through the Sacrament of Forgiveness.

For some students it may be quite some time since they last enjoyed the Sacrament (which is not a problem and shouldn't be seen as one) ... but **'remembering what to do'** may cause a bit of head-scratching, so here are a few helpful pointers:

- I will 'talk' everything through with the students before Reconciliation begins and 5 priests will also be present to ensure it doesn't take all night
- the student sits alongside one of the priests and begins by making the sign of the cross, followed by something like: "Bless me Father, for I have sinned - it is (however long) since my last Confession and I've come to ask God's forgiveness for the things I've done wrong in my life such as ..."
- after sharing two or three 'sins' with the priest the student should say: "For these, and for other things I've done wrong in my life, I ask your forgiveness"
- he/she should then listen carefully to what the priest has to say; the priest will then ask the student to make a good (sincere) Act of Contrition (see below)

### **Act of Contrition**

**"O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, and by the help of your grace I will not sin again"**

**NB. During this time the priest will say the words of 'absolution' (forgiveness)**

- the priest will then give the student a 'penance' in the form of 2/3 prayers to be said/offered when the student returns to their place
- AND THAT'S IT !!! .... Done; the priest will wish the student well and it's tradition for the penitent (the student) to say, "Thank you Father".

**The key to fully embracing this Sacrament is not to be worried about what he/she will say to the priest, but rather the mindset of being truly sorry for the things they have done wrong – asking God for forgiveness with a sincere heart.**

**God's healing forgiveness is GUARANTEED – the slate wiped clean, and a chance to make a fresh start as a Modern Apostle – a representative of Christ and Christianity.**