

WAYS OF HELPING YOUR CHILD PREPARE FOR CONFIRMATION

THE FAITH WITNESS OF PARENTS IS ESSENTIAL

Practice your own faith regularly and encourage your child to do likewise.
Attend Mass on Sundays. Try to make attendance at mass a family event.
Pray at home: a prayer in the car, angelus, meal time, night prayer etc.
Show an active interest in your child's religious work and preparation.
Ask your child about all he/she is learning at school.
Discuss the choosing of a Confirmation name. [*Choose the name of a saint*]
Discuss the choosing of a sponsor. [*A person of faith and a support to the child*]
Encourage the children to learn the prayers in Alive O 7 & 8.
Share your memories of Confirmation with your child.
Talk to your child about the hopes and plans for the Confirmation day.
Discuss the pledge with the child. Talk about the dangers of alcohol and drugs.

PARENTS PONDER ON THE FOLLOWING

Ponder on what is the priority?
Seriously consider **why** you want your child to make Confirmation.
Affirm the child's goodness.
Have a positive attitude to the child's preparation for the sacrament.
Cultivate and nurture the values you want for your child.
Co-operate with and support the class teacher.
Look at your at the quality of your leadership within the home.
Examine your own attitude to alcohol and drugs.
Try to maintain open communication with the child.
Try to insure the child experiences attention, affirmation and encouragement.
Support you child in his/her Confirmation commitment...it is about entry into the faith community.

PARENT - CHILD RELATIONSHIP

Develop a common interest with them i.e. sport, music, reading etc.
Try to create times when you can connect with the child. It is important to offer the child the opportunity to say what is on his /her mind: either having a snack at bed time, a walk, a chat in the car - whatever suits your situation.
Know who their friends are and where they are when they are out together.
Discuss your need to know where your child is at all times.
Give a Children's Bible, a book of the saints, a Christian symbol as a gift.
Try to avoid too much fuss about the confirmation clothes.
Discuss how you will deal with dishonesty, disobedience, lack of respect etc.
Discuss the dangers of alcohol and drugs. Discuss taking the pledge.
Discuss school-related issues: relationships, friends, study etc.