



Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)

St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg

Third Sunday of Lent [Year A] (27th March, 2011)

The Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheshinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU

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Liturgy Schedule for the Third Week of Lent [Year A] (27 th March, 2011 – 3 rd April, 2011)			
Saturday Evening Vigil <i>Do This In Memory (Week 7)</i>		St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday: William John Morris (4 th Anniversary)
Sunday 27th March Third Sunday of Lent [Year A]		St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9:00am Mass: Misso Pro Populo 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass
Monday 28th March Third Week of Lent		St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Tuesday 29th March Third Week of Lent		St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass 10.30am Prayer Guides' Reflection
Wednesday 30th March Third Week of Lent		St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass: Derry Diocesan Society (members and benefactors)
Thursday 31st March Third Week of Lent		St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Friday 1st April Third Week of Lent		St. Patrick's	6.30pm First Confession (Year 4) 7.30pm Stations of the Cross 8.00pm Mass
Saturday 2nd April Third Week of Lent		St. Patrick's	10.00am Mass
Saturday Evening Vigil		St. Patrick's	5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday 3rd April Fourth Sunday of Lent [Year A]		St. Patrick's Our Lady of the Wayside	9:00am Mass: Misso Pro Populo 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass
Sick and housebound will be attended Monday 4 th April. Please let them know if you live nearby. If you know of anyone who is sick or housebound and who would like a visit please inform Fr. Hasson.			
Weekly Offerings: Thank you for your generosity to last week's collection which amounted to £900 . <i>Please support your community by using your envelope even if you must attend Mass outside your parish, thank you. Envelopes received from visitors coming to Mass in Greencastle are returned to those parishes.</i> Please remember the parish when making your will. If you are a taxpayer please consider a Gift-Aid declaration, your contribution will be worth 25% more to your parish. Clerical Education and On-going Formation: A further £195 has been added to this collection. Emigrants' Commission of the Episcopal Conference: Bishop Hegarty has asked for a special collection to be taken up today after Holy Communion.			
Welcome: As a parish community we welcome into our Christian family Éabha Rose McDaid-Donnelly and Johnathan Daniel McCullagh who was baptised recently. May our adult community offer our newly baptised, their parents and godparents prayerful support and good example in our commitment to Christian living.			
Remembering Our Dead: We pray for Willie John Morris whose anniversary occurs at this time.			
Fill their hearts with your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of understanding, joy, fortitude and peace We offer congratulations and prayerful support from our parish community to Enda Clarke (Greencastle) and Dorothy McCloskey (Ballinascreen) – Saturday 26th February They recently committed themselves to each other in the sacrament of Christian Marriage.			
Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions for April (please remember these in your personal prayers)			
General:	That the Church may offer new generations, through the believable proclamation of the Gospel, ever new reasons of life and hope.		
Missionary:	That missionaries, with the proclamation of the Gospel and their witness of life, may bring Christ to all who do not yet know Him.		
Next Saturday evening we will welcome Fr. Colm O'Doherty to celebrate our Vigil Mass at 6.00pm. He is our Diocesan representative to Trócaire and will speak on the mission of this outreach to the world.			
Glenelly Players – Cupid Wore Shirts: A 3-act comedy by Sam Cree. 5 th – 9 th April in Plumbridge Parochial Hall			
Next Sunday's Readings: 1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13; Psalm 22; Ephesians 5: 8-14; John 9: 1-41 (Lectionary I, page 276) (Sunday: Year A) (Weekday: Year 1)			
Lotto Results: D – L – O – W – Z (4 winners with 3 letters – £15 each) Next Jackpot: £4,550			
Trócaire – please support our Lenten Campaign as generously as you can this year			

Parish Liturgy for April, 2011	St. Patrick's (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	St. Patrick's (9.00am Mass)	Our Lady of the Wayside (11.00am Mass)
Readers	Mary Slane	Roisin Hood	Brendan / Helen McKenna
Prayers of Intercession	Seoirse Conway	Lucy Hood	Volunteer needed
Eucharistic Ministry	Frankie Bradley	Maria Bradley	Josephine Clarke
Collectors	Gerry McCullagh Mary Bradley	Dominic Warnock Leo Donnelly	Francis Keenan Perry McCrory
Altar Society	Siobhan McKenna, Ciara McKenna and Caitriona McCullagh		Anne McDermott Carmel McCrory
Thank you for all you do in our community. Anyone wishing to volunteer for these ministries make themselves known.			
Week	6.00pm Saturday Vigil	Offertory Gifts Rota	9.00am Sunday Morning
53	Saturday 2 nd April The family of Michelle O'Brien	Fourth Sunday of Lent	Sunday 3 rd April The family of Rachel McAleer
54	Saturday 9 th April The family of Aine Lucas	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Sunday 10 th April The family of Sean Og McCann
55	Saturday 16 th April * The family of Caoimhe Warnock	Palm Sunday	Sunday 17 th April The family of Gary McElhatton
56	Saturday 23 rd April The family of Tiernan Teague	Easter Sunday	Sunday 24 th April The family of Patrick McElhatton
57	Saturday 30 th April The family of Grace Conneely	Second Sunday of Easter	Sunday 1 st May The family of Meaghan Clarke
* Do This In Memory Week 8			
As the wider parish community we thank these young people and their families for this important task.			
Episcopal Ordinations: Monday 28 th March is the 29 th anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of our bishop, Most Rev. Seamus Hegarty (1982). Thursday 31 st March is the 37 th anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of our retired bishop, Most Rev. Edward Daly (1974). Please remember them both in your prayers			
Sacrament of Confirmation (Wednesday 13 th April at 5.00pm): Bishop Francis Lagan (retired Auxiliary Bishop) will come to Greencastle to impart the Sacrament of Confirmation to our young people. Please include the candidates for Confirmation, their families, their sponsors and the Bishop in your personal and family prayers in anticipation of the ceremony.			
Friday 1 st April. First Reconciliation for the children receiving the Sacrament will be celebrated at 6.30pm in St. Patrick's Church. The parents and families of those children are encouraged to receive the Sacrament on the weekend beforehand.			
Friday 25 th April at 6.30pm. To nurture your own faith and give good witness to the next generation.			
Wednesday 13 th April Bishop Lagan will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with us at Our Lady of the Wayside Church, Broughderg at 5.00pm. The parents, families and sponsors of the candidates of are invited to receive the Sacrament the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the weekend beforehand			
Friday 8 th April at 6.00pm To nurture your own faith and give good witness to the next generation.			
Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Saturday 16 th July to Thursday 21 st July): Anyone wishing to work on this year's pilgrimage as staff (nurse, carer, doctor, wheelchair pusher) please ensure that your application is submitted promptly so Safe-Guarding documentation may be obtained.			
If you or anyone you know has a child safeguarding concern or wishes to report an allegation directly to the statutory authorities, please contact the PSNI or local Health and Social Care Trust. If you are contacting the latter, ask to speak to the Duty Social Worker. Alternatively if you have a child safeguarding concern in relation to any member of Church personnel and wish to report it to Church authorities, please contact one of the diocesan designated persons, who will in turn report your concern to the relevant statutory authorities. See poster at church entrances			
BADA	Sunday 27 th March	Music by The Lakelanders	Every Friday Night Card playing at 8.30pm
Summary of Financial Statement for Year Ended 31 st December, 2010 Prepared by Patrick Friel (Accountant), High Street, Omagh, Co. Tyrone			
INCOME		2010	2009
Routine income (envelopes etc.)		56,614	59,365
Investment Income		335	2,292
Exceptional Items (Ins. Claim, Special Donations, etc.)		21,139	450
		78,088	62,107
EXPENDITURE			
Property Expenses (Rates, Insurance, Maintenance etc.)		22,046	20,211
Administration Expenses (Salaries etc.)		28,460	27,246
Exceptional Expenditure (Refurbishment of Our Lady of the Wayside Church, Broughderg etc.)		17,109	---
		67,615	47,457
NET PARISH INCOME		10,473	14,650

Dates for the Diary in 2011

Sacramental Celebrations

Friday 1st April	St. Patrick's	6.30pm First Confession
Wednesday 13th April	Our Lady of the Wayside	5.00pm Sacrament of Confirmation (Bishop Lagan)
Sunday 5th June	Our Lady of the Wayside	11.00am First Holy Communion
Feast of the Ascension		

Solemn Annual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday 15th May	St. Patrick's
Sunday 21st August	Our Lady of the Wayside

Derry Diocesan Society Masses in our Parish (St. Patrick's)

Wednesday 30 th March	Sunday 22 nd May
Monday 11 th July	Tuesday 30 th August
	Wednesday 19 th October
The weekday Masses will be celebrated at 10.00am in St. Patrick's Church while the Sunday Mass will be celebrated at 11.00am in Our Lady of The Wayside Church.	

Public Prayers for our Deceased (Cemetery Sunday) (2nd and 3rd July)

Saturday 2nd July	St. Patrick's	7.00pm (after Vigil Mass)
Sunday 3rd July	Our Lady of the Wayside	12.00am (after 11.00am Mass)
Wednesday 2nd November	St. Patrick's	8.00pm Commemoration of All Souls (remembering all who died during the year)

'Do This In Memory' liturgies for candidates preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Saturday 26th March	Third Sunday in Lent	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Friday 1st April		6.30pm First Confessions (Reconciliation)
Saturday 16th April	Palm Sunday	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Saturday 7th May	Third Sunday of Easter	6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 5th June	Feast of the Ascension of the Lord	11.00am First Holy Communion
Saturday 25th June	Feast of Corpus Christi	6.00pm Vigil Mass

Couples planning to Marry in 2011 please confirm your details with Fr. Hasson as soon as possible.

ACCORD Marriage-Preparation Courses

8 th and 9 th April	13 th and 14 th May	10 th and 11 th June
Applications to the Secretary, ACCORD, Mount St. Columba Pastoral Centre, 48, Brook Street, Omagh BT78 5HD Tel: (028) 8224 2439. Email: accordomagh@btopenworld.com Courses are limited to 15 couples . Course should be completed at least six months before your wedding.		

Sperrin View Livery Equestrian Weekend in Aid of Foyle Hospice: Sponsored Horse Ride Saturday 28th May, Sponsored Horse Drive Sunday 29th May, routes available for all abilities and levels, refreshments provided on both days, entry fee £25 per event.

Contact Kathleen, Sperrin View Livery, Glendera Road, Feeny, 07709159016 or Jamie 07871970997

Collection for Moldova: A collection of clothes etc. will take place in St. Colmcille's GFC Grounds, Carrickmore during the month of March. Bags or boxes of all types of ladies', gent's and children's clothes and shoes, bed linen, curtains, towels, crockery, cooking utensils and small items of furniture etc. can be left in the GREEN CONTAINER between 11.00am and 8.00pm daily. The container will be locked nightly. To donate larger items of furniture, contact any of the persons listed below. Everything will go to United Christian Aid, Craigavon where it will be sorted. The proceeds will go directly to Moldova to help UCA support the poorest families. Contact Briega (028) 8076 0667 / 07867 934684; Conor (028) 807 61594 / 07585 223195 or Collette (028) 807 61493

St. Joseph's Church, Galliagh, Derry – Annual Diocesan Mass for those with Special Needs and their Families and Friends: This will take place on Saturday 9th April. If you have a child who wishes to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation or First Holy Communion at this Mass please contact the Catechetical Centre on (028) 7126 4087.

Derry Diocesan Society for Sick and Infirm Priests:

1. Any person may become a member, sharing in all its privileges by paying £20. 2. Likewise, any person whomsoever may have a deceased relative or friend placed on the Register of Members of the Society, the deceased person thereby becoming a sharer in all the Masses and prayers offered for members.

Privileges of members: Deceased: 1. A Mass every day in a parish in the Diocese (**this will take place in Greencastle on Wednesday 30th March at 10.00am**). 2. The prayers of every congregation in the Diocese on the first three Sundays of each quarter. **Living:** 1. Mass will be offered each month, as listed on the Church notice board. 2. When a living member dies the name is transferred to the list of deceased members without further payment.

Trócaire – Reflection Day: For young adults (18 – 35) on 8th and 9th April in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. The day is aimed at giving young adults the opportunity to explore how our faith relates to experiences of justice and injustice in today's world and to inspire us to work for a more just world. Those participating in World Youth Day in Madrid this year might be particularly interested. Cost €40 (£25 for students and unwaged), including meals and Friday night accommodation on campus.

Classes offered at Rouskey Community Centre:

Tai Chi: 6th, 13th and 20th April and 4th May. £20 for 4 weeks. Tutor: Sean O'Kane.

Flower Arranging: Over 55s with Pearl Feathers, Monday 28th March at 2.00pm, 4 weeks. £5. *Materials not included*

Felt Making: Over 55s with Teresa Pontz. Friday 6th May at 2.00pm. Participants will be making small felt bags.

Keep Fit: Thursday 24th March at 7.30pm, 4 weeks. £15. **Beginners Computers:** Closing Date: Friday 1st April

Gathering together to celebrate the Eucharist: Following on from the programme in The Sacred Heart Church, Omagh preparing us, the combined parishes of Drumragh, Cappagh, Greencastle, Newtownstewart, Castlederg, Drumquin and Gortin for the Eucharistic Congress (in 2012), we will now concentrate on preparing to hear the Word in our own parishes. Prayer Guides will lead us on the following Tuesday mornings after Mass: 29th March and 5th April. Each prayer session will last no longer than 30 minutes. Please join in after Mass. We will gather in the Confessional Room at the entrance to St. Patrick's Church. Thank you for your participation.

Check the Novena website at eucharist2012.com

Take a Look at Our Diocesan Website: The website is regularly updated with news and resources for use in parishes. During Lent a special feature will be full of resources to assist individuals or parish groups who wish to undertake Lectio Divina using the Sunday gospels. Hope you find it helpful! derrydiocese.org

Pioneer Total Abstinence Association – Annual Buffet and Dance: The Shepherd's Rest on Friday 29th April at 8.30pm. Tickets are £12.50. Anyone who is eligible for a Gold or Silver pin should contact the committee ASAP

Age NI First Connect Service: We offer emotional and practical support at difficult times to people later in life. The First Connect Coordinator will visit each client at home or at an alternative suitable venue to discuss their needs and provide them with information on the services that are available. This could be as simple as involving them in the community by organising access to a day centre or community group, a benefits check to ensure they are getting what they are entitled to, providing home safety measures etc. In agreement with the client, the First Connect Coordinator will signpost them to the services and make sure they are in place.

For more information or to make a referral to the First Connect service contact Age NI at: Freephone 0808 808 7575. Alternatively you can contact the First Connect Coordinator for the Western Area, Eimear McKearney on (074) 2562 0194 or email eimear.mckearney@ageni.org

Suicide Awareness Training, Cookstown: Free Training is being offered by PIPS Suicide Prevention at Gortalowry House, 94 Church Street, Cookstown, BT80 8HX on Thursday 10th March from 10.00am to 4.00pm

Institute of Irish Leadership (20 The Diamond, Pomeroy) – Flower Arranging Classes: Commencing Thursday 31st March (7.00pm to 10.00pm). 10 weeks accredited. *For more details contact Kathleen (028) 8775 7800*

Sperrin View Livery Equestrian Weekend in Aid of Foyle Hospice: Sponsored Horse Ride Saturday 28th May, Sponsored Horse Drive Sunday 29th May, routes available for all abilities and levels, refreshments provided on both days, entry fee £25 per event.

Contact Kathleen, Sperrin View Livery, Glendera Road, Feeny, 07709159016 or Jamie 07871970997

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Saturday 16th July to Thursday 21st July):

Cost: £599. Booking forms available in the Sacristy at St. Patrick's now.

Camara: This is a charity which takes in used computers, refurbishes them and sends them to schools and colleges in Africa. In 2011 we will refurbish over 10,000 computers which will be supplied to schools in Uganda, Lesotho, Kenya, Ethiopia, Zambia, Tanzania and Rwanda. Every summer Camara sends teams of Volunteers for four very busy weeks to Africa to assist our local partners deliver essential training to teachers in the schools we supply. The assignment is for four or five weeks, departing Ireland in early July or early August depending on destination.

*Camara Belfast, Unit 23 and 24 Townsend Enterprise Park, Townsend Street, Belfast BT13 2ES
Tel: (028) 9033 2470 Email: belfast@camara.ie Online: camara.ie*

Eucharistic Novena Prayer 2012

Lord Jesus,

You were sent by the Father to gather together those who are scattered.

You came among us, doing good and bringing healing, announcing the Word of salvation and giving the Bread which lasts forever. Be our companion on life's pilgrim way.

May your Holy Spirit inflame our hearts, enliven our hope and open our minds, so that together with our sisters and brothers in faith we may recognise you in the Scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

May your Holy Spirit transform us into one body and lead us to walk humbly on the earth, in justice and love, as witnesses of your resurrection. In communion with Mary, whom you gave to us as our Mother at the foot of the cross, through you may all praise, honour and blessing be to the Father in the Holy Spirit and in the Church, now and forever. Amen.

Family Care Society – Adoption: Could you make a child happy again after a difficult start in life? Family Care Society is presently seeking adoptive families who would be interested in parenting children aged between 3 and 8 years and who need the love and attention of a caring and understanding family. Could this be you?

*For more information contact Family Care Society on (028) 9069 1133 (Belfast) or (028) 7136 8592 (Derry).
email@familycaresociety.org familycaresociety.net*

Foyle Hospice – Free Adult Counseling Service: Offered on Tuesdays to help support those with a life limiting illness and their families / carers. Counseling is also available for the bereaved and there is a children's bereavement support group.

For more info please contact the Hospice on (028) 7135 1010

Knock Marriage Introduction Bureau: The aim of the Bureau is to introduce people considering marriage to a suitable marriage partner. Over 800 marriages have taken place as a result of these introductions. If you are searching for a suitable partner, why not consider applying? For further information contact the Bureau at Knock, Co. Mayo. Phone 00353 94937 5960 or visit our website at www.knockmarriagebureau.com and read about the workings of the Bureau.

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Friday 1st April – St. Ceallach (Celsus) (bishop) [1080-1129] Became abbot of Armagh in 1105 and was ordained priest. He was influenced by the reform then in progress in Munster. He presided at the synod of Rathbreasail in 1111. In 1129, on a visitation of Munster he died and is buried in Lismore in accordance with his own request.

Saturday 2nd April – St. Francis of Paolo (hermit) [1416-1507] Was a hermit and attracted others to his way of life, later called the Order of Minims

Questions people ask:

Q. Years ago, during a retreat, I heard you explain how the Samaritan woman's story represented the history of her race. Could you please refresh my memory?

A. The Samaritans were the survivors of the northern tribes who broke away from Judah (Jews) because of excessive taxation for the temple and the king. Their territory was taken over by the Assyrians who planted the land with five pagan tribes, each with their own religious worship. Elements of these religions eventually got absorbed into the Israelite religion, leaving the Samaritans with a seriously compromised faith. The Samaritan woman represented the five pagan religions by her five failed marriages, while her present cohabitation did not deserve the name of marriage, just as the pick-and-mix religion of her race did not deserve the name of worship.

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap (silvesteroflynn@gmail.com)

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospels – John 4:5-42:

1. Jesus leads the woman along a wonderful journey towards a deeper and fuller life. You can enter the story with Jesus, the ideal leader, parent, teacher or spiritual guide. Notice how he meets the woman where she is, needing her assistance, how he is patient with her, but also challenges her to grow to what she is capable of. Perhaps you have been such a teacher, or you can recall people who were.
2. You can also enter the story from the perspective of the woman's journey. Notice the steps along the way: suspicion, distrust, curiosity, misunderstanding and conversion. Her journey was one in which a very human motivation attracted her to Jesus: the thought of having water in such a way that she did not have to come and draw it from the well. What have been the human motives that have attracted you to faith, prayer, religion, church and which have been stepping-stones to a deeper personal relationship with Jesus? Perhaps we can also see the same movement in the growth of some of our human relationships.
3. The woman's final tactic is to attempt to buy time before responding (v. 25) – it will all happen sometime in the future. Jesus points out that the time for a faith response is NOW. How have you discovered the importance of the NOW moment?

John Byrne OSA (john@orlagh.ie)

The Deep End – T is for Tolerance:

Believe it or not, Sesame Street has been around for 41 years. The groundbreaking children's TV show is renowned for tackling controversial issues as diverse as disability, self image, different types of families, bereavement, and racial tolerance. So much so that other countries have begun to produce their own versions of the programme, complete with characters addressing local culture and concerns.

The South African version of the show recently introduced its first HIV positive character, Kami, whose name means 'acceptance'. The French version features wheelchair-bound Griotte, the Hebrew incarnation gives us Arab-Israeli Muslim character Mahboub, while closer to home the Northern Irish version features characters engaging in activities from both sides of the cultural divide, such as Gaelic games and drumming in an Orange march. For a programme aimed at preschoolers, it really does push boundaries.

Jesus knew all about pushing boundaries and transcending cultural stereotypes. His encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well broke all sorts of religious and social taboos. And because he approached her with such sensitivity and acceptance, she found herself being completely honest with him. Overcome with the need to spread the word, she was so moved she left her water jar behind and hurried to tell others of her experience. This woman, shunned by others, ended up becoming an important witness to who Jesus was. A little understanding goes a long way – a simple gesture can lead to great things.

Triona Doherty, Athlone, Co. Roscommon (trionad@gmail.com)

The Sacrament of Confirmation: In the Church's teaching Confirmation is one of the seven sacraments instituted by Christ for the conferral of sanctifying grace and the strengthening of the union between individual souls and God. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in its paragraphs (1302-1303) teaches:

It is evident from its celebration that the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.

From this fact, Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

- it roots us more deeply in the divine affiliation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15);
- it unites us more firmly to Christ;
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross:

Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts.

The roots of confirmation are found in Acts of the Apostles 8:14-17, "Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the holy Spirit." See also the Gospel of Saint John, chapter 14 where Christ speaks of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles.

In the Latin-Rite Catholic Church, the sacrament is customarily conferred only on persons old enough to



← understand it, and the ordinary minister of confirmation is a bishop.

“The practice of the Latin Church more clearly expresses the communion of the new Christian with the bishop as guarantor and servant of the unity, catholicity and apostolicity of his Church, and hence the connection with the apostolic origins of Christ’s Church.”

Reserving administration of the sacrament to a bishop, who cannot be present at every infant baptism, means that large groups of older children and young adults are confirmed together, making the occasion something of a rite of passage and an opportunity to profess personal commitment to the faith. However, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1308 warns: “Although Confirmation is sometimes called the ‘sacrament of Christian maturity,’ we must not confuse adult faith with the adult age of natural growth, nor forget that the baptismal grace is a grace of free, unmerited election and does not need ‘ratification’ to become effective.”

In the early twentieth century, Pope Pius X encouraged the admission of children to reception of the Eucharist as soon as they reached the age of reason, in contrast to the later age at which they had been admitted for some centuries. Since the age for confirmation remained as before, those being confirmed generally received the Eucharist several years earlier. However, the three sacraments of Christian initiation, baptism, confirmation and Eucharist, are increasingly conferred, within the Latin-Rite Catholic Church, in the traditional order, which is obligatory when an adult is baptised.

The Catholic Church teaches that, like baptism, confirmation marks the recipient permanently, making it impossible to receive the sacrament twice.

One of the effects of the sacrament is that “it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1303). This effect has been described as making the confirmed person “a soldier of Christ”.

The same passage of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* also mentions, as an effect of confirmation, that “it renders our bond with the Church more perfect”. This mention stresses the importance of participation in the Christian community.

The “soldier of Christ” imagery, which remains valid but is downplayed if seen as part of the once common idea of confirmation as a “sacrament of maturity” was used as far back as 350 by St. Cyril of Jerusalem. In this connection, the touch on the cheek that the bishop gave while saying “Pax tecum” (Peace be with you) to the person he had just confirmed was interpreted as a slap, a reminder to be brave in spreading and defending the faith: “Deinde leviter eum in maxilla caedit, dicens: Pax tecum” (Then he strikes him lightly on the cheek, saying: Peace be with you). When, in application of the Second Vatican Council’s Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, the confirmation rite was revised in 1971, mention of this gesture was omitted. However, the French and Italian translations, indicating that the bishop should accompany the words “Peace be with you” with “a friendly gesture” (French text) or “the sign of peace” (Italian text), explicitly allow a gesture such as the touch on the cheek, to which they restore its original meaning.

Information on other effects and broader matters concerning this sacrament can be found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1285-1321.

Confirmation name. In many English-speaking countries and in German-speaking lands it is customary for a person being confirmed in the Catholic Church to adopt the name of a saint with whom he/she feels a special affinity, thus securing an additional patron saint to be his/her protector and guide. The saint’s name is often used in conjunction with the confirmand’s middle name, and is without effect in civil law, unless, of course, the confirmand pursues the appropriate legal avenues.