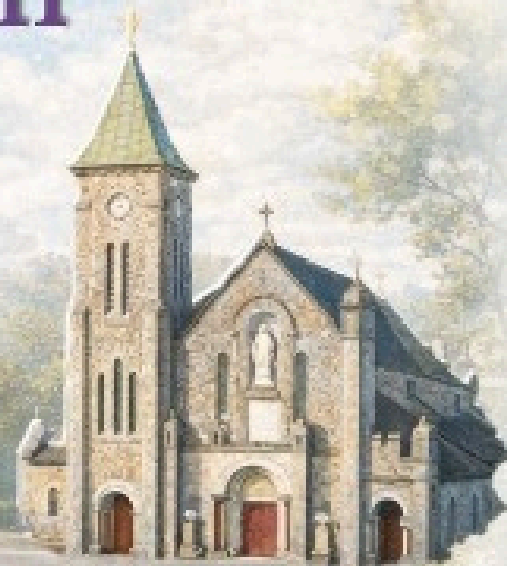




# CEREMONY OF LIGHT

## Preparation for Confirmation



*St. Mary's Church*  
*Edenderry*



# Ceremony of Light

## Introduction

We are called to live our lives in the light of Christ which was first enkindled at our Baptism. That light of Christ is dimmed in our lives when we do not live and love as we are called to in Baptism. The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation in our parish offers us all the opportunity to rekindle the light of Christ in our lives. Through this sacrament of God's love and forgiveness we will be able to walk again in the light of Christ and to share that light with others.

## Opening prayer

God, Your Son came as a powerful light in the darkness of our world. Your Spirit continues to invite us to walk in the light of your forgiveness and healing. Fill us with these gifts and strengthen us as we walk in your way.

We make this prayer in the name of God, Creator of us all, Jesus Christ, the living God among us and the Spirit who dwells and works in each and every one of us,

*ALL: Amen.*

## Reading

We are preparing ourselves for Confirmation. We are offering to spread Christ's love around us. We know the Holy Spirit will help us in our work. We thank you for all you have done for us in our lives, the love you have shown us, the sacrifices you have made for us and we ask you to continue to support and guide us.

# Ceremony of Light

## Responsorial Psalm

**Response:**

*Lord, you have made me and you know me*

For it was you who created my being  
knit me together in my mother's womb  
I thank you for the wonders of my being  
for the wonders of all your creations

**Response:**

*Lord, you have made me and you know me*

O search me, God, and know my heart  
O test me and know my thoughts  
see that I follow not the wrong path  
and lead me in the path of life eternal

**Response:**

*Lord, you have made me and you know me*

## Gospel Acclamation

*Please stand to greet the Gospel*

Alleluia, alleluia  
There is one Lord, one faith,  
one baptism and one God,  
who is Father of all  
Alleluia

# Ceremony of Light

## Gospel Reading

*Priest:*

*The Lord be with you*

*All:*

*And with your spirit*

*Priest:*

*A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew*

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

*All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

## Homily

*After the homily, the candidates are invited to stand in their seat.*

 *Music*

# Ceremony of Light

**Priest:**

*In a few weeks you will be making your Confirmation. Are you preparing to the best of your ability to be confirmed?*

**Confirmation Candidates:**

*We are.*

**Priest:**

*Are you willing to be a sign of God's love by having respect and consideration for yourself and everyone around you?*

**Confirmation Candidates:**

*We are.*

**Priest:**

*Will you try to be faithful to the promises you make at your Confirmation?*

**Confirmation Candidates:**

*We are.*

**Priest:**

*May the Lord bless your efforts, may he protect you always and may he strengthen your faith in the years ahead.*

**Candle will be lit for the Parents/Guardians.**

**Parents/Guardians are invited to stand and join their children.**

# Ceremony of Light

*Priest:*

*Your sons and daughters are offering to be a light to others. I ask you to create an atmosphere at home where their faith can grow. I ask you to guide and support them in their work for Jesus Christ. May you continue the good work you began at their Baptism. May God Almighty help and guide you in this work.*

*All remain standing. Candles will be lit.*

*Child:*

Dear Parents,

We prepare ourselves for Confirmation.

We are offering to spread Christ's Kingdom of love around us, and we know he will help us in our work.

We thank you for all you have done for us in our lives: the love you have shown us, the sacrifices you have made for us, and we ask you to continue to support and guide us now and in the future.

*Child:*

You have passed on to us the greatest gift you have given to us: faith in God and in his love for us.

We are now at an age when we wish to take on the responsibility of caring for our own faith. We ask you now to pass the candle on to us, the candle you held for us at Baptism. This candle is a sign of our faith.

*Parents/Guardians and child now hold the candle together.*

# Ceremony of Light

## *Teacher:*

Parents and guardians are very happy to pass these lighted candles to you, and thank God for giving you to them, for the joy you have given to each other and the goodness you are capable of.

We are all very aware of the new task you are undertaking as we look forward with hope as we place our trust in God. We are all happy you are willing to spread peace and love around you. We all promise you our support and guidance. We are all very proud of each one of you. May God keep you always in his care and love.

## *Priest:*

*O God, our Father, we entrust to your care these boys and girls who will soon be confirmed. We ask your blessing on them and on their parents/guardians, families and friends. Guard them from all evil and give them peace. Help us to respond to the gift of the Holy Spirit. As you did, may the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts and homes.*

*You can all blow out your candle and be seated.*

# Ceremony of Light

## Reflection

### *Parent:*

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

 *Marianne Williamson – A Return to Love*

## Final Blessing

*May we carry the light of Christ in our hearts, in our minds and in our deeds as we go from this place to continue our walk with God and with each other.*

*All: Amen*

 *Music*