

Sacred Heart & St John the Evangelist Catholic Church
London Road, Bushey, Watford, Herts. WD23 1BA
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October 2026

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Dear Candidate for Confirmation

I am writing to you to ask if you would like to be considered as a candidate for Confirmation. The ceremony will take place on Saturday 17th April 2027 at 1pm and will be presided over by Bishop Paul McAleenan.

To be confirmed you should have already been baptised and made your First Holy Communion. These are the first two of the Sacraments of Initiation. Confirmation completes the process by which you become a full member of the Church. Confirmation also asks you to consider what your faith means to you as a young adult. That is why we state that you should be in **Year 9** or above before proceeding with the Confirmation programme. Candidates in year 11 or above please contact the church office, for the RCIA programme.

To help you think about this, our team of catechists have arranged a programme which will consist of several sessions looking at various themes including, following Jesus in today's world, and putting our faith into action. You will attend 5 compulsory sessions, which will take place on Saturday's 4.30pm until 6pm. In addition, you should attend a retreat at SPEC, the Westminster Youth Ministry in Pinner. (Please see Confirmation course timetable).
We will ask your parents for a family **donation of £22** to help the Parish to cover the costs of the Confirmation such as the cost of the singers at the service, printing the confirmation, booklets etc.
To attend SPEC, an additional family **donation of £28** is suggested which goes to SPEC, **£50 in total**.
These sessions and the retreat will help you to establish whether you wish to continue your journey of faith in the Catholic Church.
Unfortunately, we are unable to accept application forms from candidates who live outside the church boundary. Please see attached boundary map for your information:

https://sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk/download/catchment-area-map/

Before being confirmed you must seriously consider whether it is right for you at this time. Please do not go forward just for the sake of family tradition, or only because your parents want you to or because your friends are nagging you to join in, do it for you.

Here is a simple summary of Confirmation to help you to begin to make your decision.

In his farewell speech Jesus comforts his disciples and promises them that he will not leave them alone: *"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." (John 14:26)*

During Confirmation, you receive the power of the Holy Spirit. This happens through the anointing with chrism oil and the imposition of hands. With the Holy Spirit at your side, you are strengthened

(from Latin word: confirmation) to be a witness of Christ in the world. He gives comfort, hope, inspiration, and peace. With this sacrament you confess that you want to belong to Jesus and His Church.

Confirmation belongs to the so-called "Initiation Sacraments", meaning sacraments of entrance into the Church. They are signs that accompany you on your journey of faith, strengthen you and allow you to mature in faith.

This is your decision, and you should not allow anyone else to make it for you:

Confirmation allows you to take the next step in building a relationship with God, by making this your decision you decide to give your "yes" to God because you want to build a closer relationship with him. Baptism was the starting point in your relationship with God, but you were too young to decide to be baptised, so others decided for you, now you can decide for yourself.

How can I prepare for Confirmation?

Be informed

Don't miss a single session of your Confirmation programme!

Try to stay close to God

Go to Holy Mass every Weekend! Don't miss. Ever. Come rain, come shine. Whether you had a party the night before or have sports training. Holy Mass is a date with God. Unless you are very sick, that's something you do not miss, you have lots of options with Mass on Saturday Evening at 6pm, and on Sundays at 8.30am, 10.30am and 6pm.

Talk to God

In the morning don't leave your bedroom without saying a prayer; and at night-time don't go to sleep without saying a prayer.

Listen to God's Word

The Bible is a bit like a long letter from God to you. Try and read a little of it regularly, perhaps during the Christmas holidays. It's best to start with the New Testament, with the Gospels. Try and understand what God is saying to you personally through his Word.

If you do decide that you would like to take the next steps, I would ask you to fill out the forms attached to this letter and to return them to me at the presbytery by Friday 11th December 2026. There will be a meeting for both you, and one parent/guardian on Thursday 7th January 2027 at 7.00pm in the Parish Church.

I look forward to meeting with you and helping you as you continue to grow in your relationship with the Lord.

With all best wishes,

Fr. Jim McNicholas



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Church Boundary

