



# PREPARING FOR YOUR CHILD'S CONFIRMATION

- CHOOSING A SPONSOR
- CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME

[WWW.BBCATHOLIC.ORG.AU/EPPINGCARLINGFORD](http://WWW.BBCATHOLIC.ORG.AU/EPPINGCARLINGFORD)



## CHOOSING A SPONSOR

What is the role of a Sponsor?

The sponsor represents the Catholic community into which the child is being welcomed through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. In addition, the role of the sponsor for Confirmation is to assist you, the child's parents, in guiding and teaching your child about living as a Catholic.

It is intended to be a lifelong relationship of prayer, faith sharing and love. During the celebration of Confirmation, the sponsor accompanies your child and places his/her right hand on your child's right shoulder while your child is Confirmed. This ancient action symbolises that the child is ready to receive the gift of Confirmation and that the sponsor will continue to support him/her in their journey of faith.

### Who can be a Sponsor?

Ideally, the sponsor would be one of your child's baptismal Godparents, as this emphasises the link between Baptism and Confirmation. If you wish to invite someone else to sponsor your child, he/she must be:

- A baptised Catholic who has also received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist
- Over 18 years of age
- A practising Catholic who can fulfil the role of sponsor

*Parents cannot be a sponsor.*

## CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME

**Does this have to be a Saint's name?** *Yes!*

The name used at Confirmation is to be a Saint's name. The Confirmation name must be specific. For example, if you choose Mary or John, you need to specify Mary, Mother of God or Saint Mary Mackillop of the Cross, Saint John the Baptist or Saint John the Apostle, etc.

If your child's baptismal name is the name of a Saint, he/she may choose to be Confirmed with this name.

Please use this time with your child to explore the Saints as this is a little journey that can lead to your child developing an affinity towards a particular Saint. It is also a time to help your child find out more about his/her baptismal name and sharing your reasons for choosing it.

If you would like to help your child choose the name of a Saint for his/her Confirmation, please choose a name because of the story of the saint and his/her particular inspirational qualities, not just for the name itself. You may find a visit to the Parish Library at both churches a useful beginning. The following websites are also helpful:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General\\_Roman\\_Calendar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Roman_Calendar)

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

### **MINI ASSIGNMENT - SAINT'S STORY**

This mini assignment is due *Session 3* of the weekly group sessions.

As you assist your child in choosing a Confirmation name, it is helpful to explain to your child that he/she is getting to know a new friend. Your child is asked to write a short essay about the chosen Confirmation name in his/her own words. The objective of this assignment is to ensure your child becomes familiar with the Saint or gets to know this "new friend" whom he or she has chosen. More details will be available to help your child along as the group sessions begin.

