CONFIRMATION RESPONSIBILITIES

An important part of Confirmation is becoming involved in the life of the Parish and starting to take on adult responsibilities. Some of you may already be involved with these opportunities. If so, do please continue with these. We hope all of you will become involved with one of these ministries and commit to it at least once a month for the year of 2023 (with the exception of holidays and the exam period). As with many things, what you get out of your faith, how you grow in it, is linked to what you put into it - by involvement in the parish and the wider church.

We will finalise your choice by Christmas, when an adult who is already engaged in that responsibility will be on hand to go through what is involved with you. Be assured that you will receive training and support, as needed, for your chosen responsibility. We will do our best to accommodate your preferred choice, but please note that there will be times when it is not possible. (NB * denotes ministries that are based around a weekend Mass. The number in brackets e.g (3) at the end of each description denotes the maximum amount of people we can accommodate for each responsibility. If no number is present, the amount of young people who can take part will be flexible.) Maybe there's a friend(s) you'd like to work with on one of these roles.

Collectors * - Collectors take the collection baskets round at Sunday Mass, before the offertory, and take the bags up to the altar. This would suit someone who can remain calm and is observant.

Servers * - As a server, you assist the Priest in the celebration of Mass by adding dignity to the celebration and providing practical help in the Sanctuary. Full training given.

Lectors/Readers * - Readers contribute to the Mass by proclaiming the 1st Reading and Psalm or 2nd Reading and the Bidding Prayers. This is an important contribution which helps the congregation to worship. This is a front-facing ministry that would require some confidence and a clear reading voice – though training will be given to anyone willing to give it a go!

Assistant Helper for childrens' First Holy Communion preparation - You help a group of ten Yr 3 children and their Catechists in the programme with reading, drawing and talking about faith. This requires you to be available once every three weeks (ish) between January and July on a Saturday morning. Ideal for those who enjoy working with young children. (3)

Welcomers/Stewards * - When people arrive at church for Mass they need to feel welcome, greeted by a smiling face! They may need to be shown where the hymn books are or be given a sheet. You may need to offer hand sanitiser or to assist an individual to find a safe place to sit. New people may need a friendly face to explain where to go. This ministry would suit an out-going person, who can take their own initiative.

Web Content - The parish team has been working hard to develop our parish website – which went "live" in November 2020. Are you someone who has a gift for writing or aspires to be a journalist? Do you have a creative streak for poetry or writing prayers? Maybe you are willing to research, for example, the lives of the saints and write an article about it? Or maybe you have some ideas as to how to make our youth pages - in particular - more appealing and could contribute to the designing the website?

Flower arranging - The church is a sacred space and adding flowers to it can serve to enhance the beauty of the church space. This ministry would be for those with an eye for creativity, to learn how to create a simple and striking flower arrangement. The commitment would be meeting for about an hour on a Saturday afternoon. (4)

Serving teas and coffees * - After the 9am and 11am Masses at St Joseph's, parishioners are invited to the hall for a cup of tea or coffee and refreshments for the children. This is an important community moment, which allows families and individuals to gather socially, in a safe environment and get to know fellow parishioners. You would need to know how to conduct yourself in a kitchen environment and be a kind and friendly face when serving people. After tea and coffee is served, tables may need to be wiped down and bins/recycling dealt with. Sanitising of the hall maybe required afterwards. (8)

Repository * - You would need to arrive 10 minutes before the 9am or 11am Mass in St Joseph's to set up the stall at the back of the church and stay for 15 minutes after Mass to sell goods and clear the stock away. You need to be good at basic maths & handling money. Ordering of stock and pricing items is also an important part of this ministry and there may be particular items to highlight at special times in the year. Help is also needed to advertise the repository amongst the parish and local schools. (3)

Gardening - You can help to maintain the church grounds – in particular weeding and maintenance of shrubs around the Cardinal's Walk alleyway and pathway between the car park and the church. The commitment would be for an hour, once a month. (4)

Music * - You can get involved as either a singer or playing an instrument at the 9am or 11am Mass in St Joseph's or at 9am at Most Holy Redeemer, contributing to the music at Mass and helping out as needed with setting up, especially the microphones and music stands. Or you could receive guidance as to how to animate the music at a youth Mass on Sunday at 6pm.

Church Cleaning - You come to St Joseph's, Most Holy Redeemer or Holy Cross on one Saturday each month as a group of four to vacuum, sweep, dust and polish, so that the church remains an appropriate setting for the worship of the people to God. This is the hidden ministry which many people take for granted - until it doesn't happen! Sometimes the church hall will also require a clean. Post-covid restrictions, this has become a vital element of what we do in order to welcome people to church. As well as a monthly deep clean, you might choose to get involved with regular cleaning of the church on a Sunday after Mass (12)

Organising a special parish event - If you are someone who is creative with ideas or likes to bring an idea into reality, you might like to spend time organising a special parish event, with the aim of gathering parishioners together and creating a community spirit. Maybe you could be part of a small group to envisage and organise a themed afternoon tea for the elderly. You might want to run a special after-school kids art workshop for local catholic school children on a particular theme, like during Lent or Easter. We also plan a "rich man, poor man" supper during Lent 2023, which would be a great opportunity of any budding events coordinators! This would suit someone who can work under supervision in the kitchen to prepare food or is willing to work hard to practically bring an event to life – from advertising to it's execution.

Environment – Care for the environment and the world around us is a vital part of our call, as Christians. If you would be keen to spend your year planning activities to highlight our duty to caring for our world, then let me know. We could plant trees, do some community litter picking, or think about organising a clothing swap shop to eliminate waste – we welcome your ideas!

Library – We are looking to establish a library of the books we own at the church and offer them to parishioners. We are looking for anyone who is self-motivated and has a good eye for organisation, who might be able to help bring it to reality.

Tear off reply slip

Please print off and drop into the parish via the letterbox at 3 Windhill, addressed: "FAO Sophie Sullivan (Confirmation)" OR email me back with your 1st and 2nd choices: bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk

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Candidate's Name

Chosen Ministry – 1st choice

Chosen Ministry – 2nd choice