**Programme Outline**

The structure of *You Shall Be My Witnesses* is based on the sections of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church:*

* What we believe!
* What we celebrate!
* What we live!
* What we pray!

There are Five Sessions

 Session 1 Belonging

 How do I belong?

 Session 2 Believing

 What do I believe?

 Session 3 Being a Christian

 How can I be a Christian?

 Session 4 Becoming a Witness

 How do I share the Good News?

 Session 5 Beginning Again

 What happens next?

**Note:**

This programme is usually delivered in a parish setting with volunteers who facilitate the programme. Parents are encouraged to join in at the end of each session for prayer. Children are asked to complete some tasks and worksheets at home and these activities provide a conversation for both the parents and children around the topics discussed in each session. In the light of the current situation I would like to encourage all members of the family to provide the support and encouragement needed to prepare your child/ children for the sacrament of confirmation.

**Acknowledgement:**

I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to Maeve Mahon, who developed the *You Shall Be My Witnesses* programme for parishes and for giving us permission to use this wonderful resource in a new way to help our Confirmation candidates prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation

**Providing a Sacred Space**

In order to deliver each session, I invite you to create a sacred space in your home. This sacred space will also serve as a focus of prayer at the end of each session.

You will need:

A candle (battery is safe)

A white or red cloth

A cross or Bible (or both)

(insert image of a sacred space)

**Session 5**

**Post Confirmation Session**

**Beginning Again: What Happens Next?**

Start the session by lighting the candle and saying the opening prayer together.

**Opening Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us, especially upon \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (child’s/children’s name (s)) as he/ she/they prepare for the sacrament of confirmation. Amen

**Confirmation Report**

Congratulations you have completed the third and final sacrament of initiation. You have said **your** ‘Yes’ to being a member of the Christian community. The hope is that this session will be held in a parish setting, but I invite you to consider the following especially if the restrictions relating to covid 19 have not been lifted;

**Activity**

Write a report on all the events leading up to and including your confirmation day. Consider the circumstances that you as an individual person, a family member and a community member experienced being in isolation away from your friends, family, school and parish.

How did you prepare for the sacrament of confirmation without your class mates? How did this make you feel?

How did you engage with the community or parish during the build-up to your confirmation date?

What Acts of Random Kindness did you accomplish in preparation for this special day?

How did ‘doing’ your Acts of Random Kindness change or affect the way you think and behave around others?

What was the most challenging part of preparing for your Confirmation?

What was the highlight of your Confirmation preparation?

What was the highlight of your Confirmation ceremony?

**Let us Pray**

**Leader Only the Spirit creates**

**All But we are called to enhance that creation.**

**Leader Only the Spirit gives life.**

**All But we are called to cherish life.**

**Leader Only the Spirit makes to grow.**

**All But we are called to nourish that growth.**

**Leader Only the Spirit give faith.**

**All But we are called to be signs of faith for each other.**

**Leader Only the Spirit gives love.**

**All But we are called to care for each other.**

**Leader Only the Spirit gives hope.**

**All But we are called to give each other reasons to hope.**

**Leader Only the Spirit gives power.**

**All But we are called to get things going.**

**Leader Only the Spirit can bring peace.**

**All But we are called to build bridges.**

**Leader Only the Spirit brings happiness.**

**All But we are invited to be joyful.**

**Leader Only the Spirit is the way**

**All But we are called to show the way to others.**

**Leader Only the Spirit is light.**

**All But we are called to make that light shine in the world.**