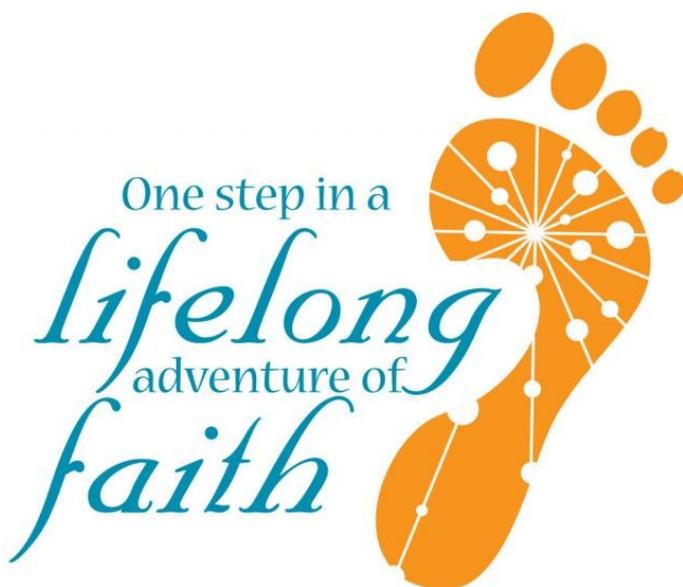




# *My Journey to Confirmation*

*A collection of personal accounts  
from the youth of St. Bedes*



**“Confirmation for me has been an experience** which has let me know for sure that I am ready to confirm my faith in God.”

That sentence may appear not to make complete sense, but I guess not everything in life makes sense, because it doesn't have to. Growing up, there are many questions which enter our minds, and we often demand the answers. My confirmation experience has taught me that everyone has questions which they want the answers to, and that there's nothing wrong with asking. It's given me several opportunities to learn from other Catholics, based on their own personal experiences, which is a wonderful thing to be able to do, as well as also being able to reflect on my own experiences.

After my visit to Walsingham house I was almost sure of the name I'd choose to be confirmed as. It was in the Chapel at Walsingham House that I first came across the name Ambrose, and there also that for me, a lot of things began to make sense. I feel like when I found 'Ambrose', I found an answer to a question I didn't even know I had, and in fact I don't even know what the question is right now. What I do know though, is that in my heart it feels like My Confirmation Journey only *really* began when I went to Walsingham House, ( as odd as it is,) and I guess that's because I began to take the decision I was making to make my confirmation more seriously. I knew, and know that making my confirmation would change me, and I guess I like(d) the idea of that.

I am overall very glad to have had this opportunity to become a confirmed Catholic, and proud to say that I've somehow managed to reflect on my journey in exactly 322 words.

Thank You to everyone who has helped me on this journey, God Bless.

***Ajoa Nuako***

**My Journey to Confirmation** was truly self –fulfilling and we-inspiring. In just five sessions many of my questions surrounding God and Religion were justified, and this not only strengthened my faith but also brought me closer to God.

Before I embarked on this journey, my faith was quite unstable, and naturally as a human, I was curious and had countless questions to ask. Does God Exist?

How can we prove it? Why won't he just show himself? These were only a fraction of the questions I had; Father Martin and his great team guided me, giving me answers to all the questions, some quite hard to comprehend and others really easy to perceive.

I honestly enjoyed going to the sessions, not only because of the social aspect but also because I was able to rectify all the misconceptions I had about God and Catholicism. The sessions also introduced me to new, sophisticated people who began like me, curious and unsure about faith, who later really helped me.

***Alessandro De Silva***

**By attending Confirmation classes,** I have been able to meet new people and interact with those who share the same faith as myself.

It was interesting listening to the views of others, which helped to clarify my own thoughts.

During the Confirmation classes I have learnt about the seven sacraments and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, which assist many Christians during their lifetime to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

I enjoyed learning about how Christians are able to apply their faith to their jobs and the thoughtfulness and respect we should have towards other religions.

I have chosen to be confirmed now because I have been raised as a Catholic and I want to continue my faith now that I am at an age where I can make my own decision. I am extremely happy that I was able to share this experience with the new people I have met.

My confirmation experience has taught me many important things that will assist me in being a Christian throughout my life.

***Francesca Titterton***

**Upon starting my confirmation** at St Bede's church, I questioned my faith, and my beliefs weren't so strong about the validity of some Christian teachings, and the services they offered.

In the classes, I found that many of my questions were answered and my mind was opened to the meaning and true purposes of church and prayer.

Through activities and talks with Fr Martin, I learnt that there was much more to prayer than mumbling words before meals to bless the food.

In doing these activities, I also got to know some of my older friends better than I had known them before. The comfort and atmosphere in the hall helped us to work together and consolidate our knowledge as a group.

We were told faith stories of some of those who had come to visit the Church; these included professions such as policemen, social workers, and also journalists. They explained to us how their religion affected their job and their moral judgement.

It interested me the most to hear of the policeman's story, and how he was forced to make decisions which weren't correct in the eye of God, but were lawful. These stories now help me apply my good judgement, influenced by my religion, to everyday situations.

I found our trip at Walsingham house to be an eye opening experience in which I was helped to gain a better understanding of my religion, and the help that Christianity provides to us all. At the house, we took part in activities which helped us to understand common Christian teachings better, for example, we studied parables for more in-depth meanings, we looked at different ways of helping others and were helped to overcome situations which we were in religiously, and helped to strengthen our spiritual bond with God.

***Nathan Fernandes***

**When I had my baptism** fifteen years ago at the age of four months I didn't have choice whether I did my baptism or not as this was my parents choice and the same thing happened with my communion seven years ago when I was eight years old, however now I am old enough to be able to make the choice of making my confirmation or not.

By doing my confirmation I am able to continue my spiritual journey as a Catholic in order to learn more about my faith.

While doing my confirmation I have been able to learn about my faith and the seven sacraments in order to link them to my daily life in order to continue my journey as a Catholic.

Personally my favourite part of my confirmation journey was the retreat to Walsingham House, this helped me to understand the sacraments and what will happen at confirmation, they demonstrated this through the activities they did to help us through life.

The experiences I have gained through this will help strengthen my faith. Many thanks to the catechists and Father Martin.

***Shannon Louise Taylor***

**My journey to Confirmation** has been a positive one.

It has given me the opportunity to see my old friends from primary school and to discuss my faith with them.

It has helped me to understand the importance of the sacrament and the significance of God in my life.

I enjoyed the trip to Walsingham House, where the volunteers were friendly and thought-provoking.

I'm glad that I decided to participate in the programme as it has opened my eyes to my faith and how it impacts me and everything around me.

***Shona Galt***

**Confirmation marks the point in my Christian journey** in which I will affirm my faith. I was baptized without consultation into a life of committed discipleship. The journey started when my parents brought me into the world.

Their commitment and strong faith to God was what led to me receiving the ritual of baptism at three months old. My journey continued through my First Holy Communion at the age of eight.

Now being at the age of fifteen I was given the choice and autonomy to decide into whether I would want to continue on this journey. I realised I wanted to commit myself to God and to become admitted as a full member of the Christian faith. I am now at the final stage of strengthening my relationship with God by taking the confirmation sacrament.

I have truly enjoyed this experience of young people coming together to learn more about our faith. It has enabled me to look deeper into my own beliefs and made me stronger as a member of the Christian community.

The retreat to Walsingham House was particularly my favourite as we were able to reflect as a group upon the aspects of confirmation and were given time to think and question our faith.

I would like to thank all those people that have helped me through this journey especially the catechists, Father Martin and my dear sponsor Sonia who have vowed to continue to guide and support me on my journey to enlightenment.

God Bless you all on this special day,

***Mia Grant***

**This very journey that I had been on was amazing.** A journey that I'd want to relive again. When I was given the chance to do my confirmation, I was 100% sure that I wanted to do it. Given the opportunity to do my confirmation was a huge step for me.

My Baptism and Holy Communion was chosen by my parents and I had no say but now that I feel that I am more matured and I have an awareness about my catholic faith; I am becoming more responsible, not to mention the fact that I was able to choose my confirmation name by myself. I chose to do it by myself.

Father Martin used to say in our classes "You're here because you chose to be." And I totally agreed with him. I chose to be here because I wanted to change. I wanted to be a better person. A better Christian.

The first few classes were very exciting and overwhelming for me as I was new to this whole thing just as everyone else and also I had reunited with my fellow St. Bede's friends who I hadn't seen for three more years.

During our three day stay at Walsingham house, it was a lovely experience for me, firstly because I was away from home and secondly because I got to spend time with friends I hadn't spoken to or seen in ages. But most importantly, I learnt more about what confirmation entailed and what I was letting myself into. As days went by, I saw a change in our confirmation group. We had grown stronger as individuals and I certainly had changed after being told about various life changing events that happened to some of the Walsingham House crew. I felt like a new person who was ready to be confirmed and I was ready.

A special thanks to Father Martin and the confirmation teachers for helping me get to where I am now and without you guys I don't think I would have been the person I am this very day!

God Bless x

***Chanyquar Osafo***

**My journey to confirmation** has been a journey that I will never forget.

The reason why I made the decision to be confirmed was that I wanted to strengthen my faith and I have always felt like there was a missing piece to my life which needed to be filled.

When I was younger I didn't take my faith as seriously as I should because everyday at school I would pray but not really think about what the words actually meant and I would go to Church and not really take any interest in what was going on, but still, I felt like there was a missing piece to my life which needed to be filled.

Throughout this journey I feel like I have grown as a person and that my faith has grown. This journey has taught me that it is good to question my faith as there are a lot of questions which can't be answered. Also, this journey has taught me that it is impossible to be a 'perfect' Christian because nobody's perfect and who would want to live in a society filled with such people anyway.

Also throughout this journey, I have met a lot of people who I have been inspired by. Inspired by how they had given up their time to share their faith journey with me which I appreciate and inspired by the obstacles which they came across and managed to overcome throughout their faith. Due to this, I thank them.

Now that I am reaching the end of my journey to confirmation, I have come to realization that the missing piece to my life is gradually being filled and that I have realised that making the decision to be confirmed was the right one.

***Jasmine Alexander***

**My experience of Confirmation** has inspired me to want to go to Lourdes.

It made me realise my faith more, especially the weekend away which made me realise how important and easy prayer is and how it's such an easy way to become closer and talk to God.

Another good thing about confirmation is that it has made me build relationships with old friends from primary school that I have lost contact with.

Lastly I am looking forward to completing the last stage of my Confirmation, as it will mean I am a full member of the church.

***Siobhan Amber Conway***

**Doing my confirmation has helped me** reflect more on God and understand how wonderful he is; it was very inspirational when the people from Walsingham house came to visit us and share with us about their faith in God and how he has affected them in their lives as well as the struggles they have as being catholic and their beliefs when their job requires for them to be professional.

This preparation for my confirmation has helped me to know and understand my faith a bit more and understand God better, to be able to receive the Holy Spirit and become a disciple of Christ.

I feel that after my confirmation I will be renewed with one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit to spread the Gospel to those who do not yet know about Jesus Christ.

***Adaobi Ibuaka***

**At baptism**, we receive seven special gifts from the Holy Spirit.

These gifts are given to us by our parents will. To help us live as followers of Jesus and to build up the body of Christ. When we reach the age where we are mature enough to take advantage of the free will given to us; we decide for ourselves whether we want to continue our faith.

If so; the gifts of the holy spirit are sealed and strengthened within us at confirmation. These gifts help teens like me to respond to the holy spirit in our lives, to make good choices and to serve God and others.

Because I have chosen to continue my faith, I personally feel more at peace and not alone. When choosing a saint that inspires me; I chose Saint Alena. Her strength and dedication to her faith persuaded me to do the same with my faith.

Also showed me in Alena's dark times God was with her and consoling her. Therefore I've learnt despite my fears, I know God will also be by my side as well, thus fulfilling my goals.

Believing he has a good plan made for me. Because of confirmation I feel more confident with my faith. Also when remembering the number of people travelling around the world spreading the word of God, like them, I too am; proud to be catholic.

***Lourdes Perera***