



St Mary's Cathedral

20 October, 2017

Dear Parish Sacramental Coordinators/Parents/Sponsors,

RE: IMPORTANT NOTICE WHEN SELECTING A SPONSOR

In preparation for your Child's confirmation please note as a rule, all candidates must have a suitable sponsor. The sponsor plays an important role in the candidates' Catholic faith and brings the candidate to receive the sacrament, by presenting him or her to the Clergy for anointing.

As the candidate commits to their Catholic faith, the role of the sponsor is to assist and help them fulfil their baptismal promises faithfully. Therefore, it is important for the candidate and parents to select a sponsor who is spiritually fit to take this important responsibility.

As such the sponsor MUST have the following qualities:

- The sponsor must have sufficient maturity to fulfil their Catholic function – a person of 16 years or older
- Be a practicing member of the Catholic Church, and have undergone their own Christian initiation through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
- Offer freedom from any impediment of canonical law to their fulfilling of a Sponsor.

Candidates must have, at minimum one sponsor. Please note parents cannot be a sponsor for their child; however may in exceptional circumstances, present their child for Confirmation as a proxy for the absent sponsor.

If you have any concerns with your selection of sponsor please speak with your Sacramental Coordinator.

Yours Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP
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ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY