

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



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"You may find it helpful to refer to THE ORDER OF MASS cards you will find at the end of your pew for the fuller text of this Celebration of the Eucharist"

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Courage, Right Judgement, Reverence Awe & Wonder in God's Presence

The sacrament of Confirmation continues the path of Christian initiation begun at Baptism. The confirmed are sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit, and are given the grace to witness to Christ by proclaiming the Good News, worshipping in spirit and truth, and serving their brothers and sisters.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Candidate: **When you light one candle from another, the first candle loses none of its brightness. Light is like love, the more you share it, the brighter the world becomes, the more love you have in your life.**

Entrance: Candlelight Procession

Music: Go Light Your World - Chris Rice

Candidate: **Take your candle, go light your world.
We invite you now to share in our journey as we begin to share
God's light with others and take our light into the world.
Please stand for our opening hymn, Christ Be Our Light 439**

Music: Christ be our light 439

Celebrant : In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The people: **Amen.**

Celebrant : The Lord be with you.

The people: **And with your spirit.**

PENITENTIAL ACT

Celebrant : Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Celebrant : You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord have mercy

The people: **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant : You came to call sinners: Christ have mercy.

The people: **Christ have mercy.**

Celebrant : You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:
Lord have mercy.

The people: **Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant : May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

The people: **Amen.**

**Gloria: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of goodwill.
 We Praise you,
 We bless you,
 We adore you Amen**

Celebrant : Father, give us the confidence to challenge injustice and to nurture the flame of justice until it burns brightly. May the Spirit of justice and compassion accompany us and light our way. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

The people: **Amen**

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up, but if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him. If it is cold, two can sleep together and stay warm, but how can you keep warm by yourself? Two men can resist an attack that would defeat one man alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break.
The Word of the Lord.

The people: **Thanks be to God.**

We will now sing the Psalm

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - sung - As the Deer Pants 142

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Colossians 3: 12-17

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

The Word of the Lord.

The people: **Thanks be to God.**

We will now sing the Alleluia

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia (37)

GOSPEL (Matthew 5: 13-16)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew



REFLECTIONS

Candidates share their experience of the Confirmation programme.

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Two of the catechists approach the Altar; having bowed to the Altar, they go to the lectern, after which they present the candidates to the Celebrant.

Catechist: **Reverend Father Guest, I present to you the following parishioners who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.**

The catechist invites each candidate to stand, along with their sponsor, when their name is read out.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

*Alice Featherstone (Florence)
Andrew Mulhall (Moses)
Annabel Pitts (Cecilia)
Caitlin Kawalek (Antonia)
Ella Towers (Odilia)
Ellie Clewett (Edith)
Ellie Walker (Colette)
Emilia Wingfield (Cecilia)
Eve Cochrane (Catherine)
Katherine McGuinness (Flora)
Mathew Etchells (Bernard)
Olivia Maddocks (Eliza)
Robert Chilten (Leo)
Temeca Forster (Ciara)*

Catechist: **Reverend Father, We have been commissioned by our parish to prepare these young people to be confirmed. We have done our best to help them to grow in their Christian faith. In doing so, we have shared the joys and struggles of our own faith, along with our experiences of forgiveness, peace and community.**

Catechist: **We find that they are ready and worthy to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. We thank them, because our faith has been deepened by sharing their journey with them, and we thank their parents and sponsors for their support and cooperation. On behalf of our parish, we recommend that these young people receive the sacrament of Confirmation.**

Celebrant : Dear catechists, thank you for your generosity in preparing your fellow parishioners to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. I accept your recommendation that they are ready and worthy to be confirmed.

The Celebrant : invites the candidates to renew their baptismal promises.

Celebrant : Dear candidates for Confirmation, I now invite you in front of your families, sponsors and friends, to make for yourselves the promises which your parents and godparents made for you when they brought you to be baptised. And so I ask you: Do you reject Satan, and all his works, and all his empty show?

Candidates: **I do**

Celebrant : Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

Candidates: **I do**

Celebrant : Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

Candidates: **I do**

Celebrant : Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who came upon the Apostles at Pentecost and today is given to you sacramentally in Confirmation?

Candidates: **I do**

Celebrant : Do you believe in the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Candidates: **I do**

Celebrant : This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The people: **Amen**

The candidates kneel in their places and the sponsors sit. The Celebrant, conCelebrants and any other priests present move to the front of the Altar, with the priests standing around the Celebrant. Then, with hands joined, the Celebrant : says the following:

Celebrant : My dear friends, in Baptism God our Father gave the new birth of eternal life to his chosen sons and daughters. Let us pray to our Father that he will pour out the Holy Spirit to strengthen his sons and daughters with his gifts, and anoint them to be more like Christ, the Son of God.

All pray in silence for a short while. Then, the Celebrant, together with those other priests near him, extends his hands over the candidates, while the Celebrant : alone says the following:

Celebrant : All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

The people: **Amen**

The Celebrant remains standing in front of the Altar. A priest – brings the vessel containing the Holy Chrism from the Altar to the Celebrant , and stands on his right holding the vessel. Any conCelebrants or priests, other than the Parish Priest, return to their seats. The Parish Priest stands at the Celebrant’s left. Guided by the catechists, each candidate goes to the Celebrant, with the sponsor standing to the candidate’s side. The sponsor gives the card bearing the candidate’s name to the person collecting them, and then places their right hand on one of the candidate’s shoulders. The person collecting the cards recites the candidate’s Confirmation name to the Celebrant, and shows him the card.

The Celebrant : dips his right thumb in the Holy Chrism and makes the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of the candidate:

Celebrant : N....., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Candidate: **Amen**

The Celebrant : shakes the candidate’s right hand:

Celebrant : Peace be with you.

Candidate: **And with your spirit .**

Music : String Quartet

Once the music has finished, everyone stands for the Prayer of the Faithful.

Celebrant : My dear friends, filled with the Holy Spirit, let us be united in prayer to God our heavenly Father.

Reader: For the holy Church of God, in union with Pope Francis, and all the Bishops: that God, who gathers us together by the Holy Spirit, may help us grow in unity of faith, hope and love, until Jesus comes in glory at the end of time. [Pause] Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Reader: For the newly-confirmed, who have received the fullness of God's Holy Spirit: that gathered around the Altar, they may share in Christ's sacrifice, and be given the grace to live their baptismal calling to bear witness to him in their daily lives. [Pause] Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Reader: For their parents, godparents, sponsors, catechists and fellow parishioners: that by word and example, they may always encourage the newly-confirmed to follow the way of Jesus Christ. [Pause] Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Reader: For the people of the world: that they may acknowledge the one God as Father of all peoples, so that, in the bond of common fellowship, they may seek his Kingdom, which is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. [Pause] Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Reader: For the faithful departed: that having shared in Christ's Death they may come to share in his Resurrection and live with him for ever in heaven. [Pause] Lord, hear us.

All: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Reader: In the silence of our hearts, let us pray for our own intentions.

After a suitable pause for silent prayer, Celebrant : says the concluding prayers.

Celebrant : Let us ask Our Lady to pray with us and for us, as we say:

All: **HAIL, holy Queen, Mother of mercy.
Hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve;
To thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us.
And after this our exile show unto us
the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.**

Celebrant : Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

The people: **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Celebrant : God our Father, you sent your Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, and through them and their successors you give the Spirit to your people. May his work begun at Pentecost continue to grow in the hearts of all who believe. Through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Eucharist follows as usual, and the newly-confirmed bring the offerings of bread and wine to the Celebrant.

Offertory: Gifts of Bread and Wine 273

Celebrant : Pray, brothers and sisters,
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

The people: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at
your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Celebrant : Father, may your Spirit lead us into truth and reveal to us the full meaning of this Eucharist. We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Celebrant : The Lord be with you.

The people: **And with your spirit.**

Celebrant : Lift up your hearts.

The people: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Celebrant : Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

The people: **It is right and just.**

PREFACE chosen by Celebrant :

The people: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

The people: **Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The people: ***Let your light shine before others, that they may see
your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.***

Communion Hymn : Be still for the Presence of the Lord 165

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant : Oh God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your church, safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given, that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her may retain all its force and that this spiritual food may gain her abundance of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

The people: **Amen**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Celebrant : You have nourished us through our sharing in this celebration of the Eucharist. Fill us with your Spirit and make us one in peace and love.

All: **Amen**

Celebrant : May the fire of the Spirit that burned in the hearts of the disciples make our hearts glow with your light, so that we will shine before others and show love through our actions. And may Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Recessional: *Sing my Soul 620*

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Love Self-control Patience
(*Compassion*)

Kindness Faithfulness Goodness
(*Justice*)

Peace Gentleness Joy
(*Peace*)

We thank Fr Guest, Fr. Andrew and the priests of the deanery for their presence today, and the catechists, parents and all the people who have helped in any way with this celebration.



Thank you!

Please join us for refreshments in the Parish Centre after our celebration.





















*Excerpts from the English translation of The Rite of Confirmation
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