

Liturgy Preparation Sheet

for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation for the children from _____ School when Confirmation takes place *within* Sunday Mass

It is envisaged that this planning form be completed at a meeting attended by representatives of the home, school and parish communities. Some suggestions are given for hymns, but these are by no means exhaustive. Please feel absolutely free to use suitable alternatives, making sure that the whole congregation is provided with the words to sing. Where a parish choir usually provides the music for Sunday Mass, it is important to liaise with them well in advance.

PRELIMINARY NOTES

Date: _____

Time: _____

Mass Setting: _____

Suggestions from *Grow in Love*:

- *Gospel Acclamation* (Alleluia, Alleluia) (Fifth Class/P7 Teacher's Manual, p. 381)
- *Holy Holy (Sanctus)* (Fifth Class/P7 Teacher's Manual, p.383)
- *Mystery of Faith* (Fifth Class/P7 Teacher's Manual, p.384)
- *Great Amen* (Fifth Class/P7 Teacher's Manual, p.385)
- *Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)* (Fifth Class/P7 Teacher's Manual, p.386) (may be sung by the choir alone)

Preparing the church building

Many teachers like to work with the parish community to decorate the church, both to make it welcoming and friendly for children and families, and to honour the special occasion that is being celebrated. There are a few points to bear in mind where this is the case:

- Flowers serve to honour our encounter with God. It is appropriate to place flowers around the sanctuary area but not on the altar itself. Flowers can also be placed in the entrance hall/porch to express welcome and festivity. It is important that flowers, candles or other objects do not distract from the area around the tabernacle during the Mass. The consecrated

hosts in the tabernacle are referred to as the 'Reserved Sacrament' because these hosts are reserved to be used for visits to the sick and for adoration and prayer outside of Mass times. The sanctuary lamp reminds us of the presence of the Reserved Sacrament in the tabernacle and that we are in a very sacred space.

- There is no requirement for the children to prepare artwork for the church. In some cases, this can distract from the Mass itself. It may be appropriate, however, to display the children's artwork in the entrance hall/porch of the church.

Notes regarding the distribution of Holy Communion

- It is desirable that the congregation receive Holy Communion from hosts consecrated at that Mass, rather than from hosts that have been reserved in the tabernacle.
- It is also desirable that Holy Communion be available from the chalice at this and all celebrations of the Mass.
- Parents/guardians of children who suffer from a coeliac condition should be made aware that 'gluten free' hosts *do* contain traces of gluten. In cases where even a minimum gluten content will be problematic, parents/guardians may wish their child to receive Holy Communion from the chalice *only*.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Hymn/Song

Suggestions from *Grow in Love*:

- *Gathering Song*, composed by Bernard Sexton (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p.88)
- *This Is the Day*, composed by Mary Amond O'Brien (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p.212)
- *Spirit Anthem*, composed by Frances O'Connell (Fifth Class/P7 Teacher's Manual, p.324)
- *Come, Holy Spirit*, composed by Bernard Sexton (Fourth Class/P6 Teacher's Manual, p.88)
- *The Summons*, words by John L. Bell & Graham Maule (Fifth Class/P7 Teacher's Manual, p.134)

Sign of the Cross and Greeting

Presentation of Symbols

- If the candidates have symbols of their giftedness or of their work in preparation to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, now is the appropriate time to bring them forward to the sanctuary area.
- Have a space/table arranged in the sanctuary where these symbols can be placed and be visible, but preferably not in front of the altar or ambo.
- A scripted commentary and quiet, reflective music may accompany the bringing forward of these symbols.

Penitential Act

Choose from one of the following:

- Say the *Confiteor* ('I confess to almighty God...')
- Sing or say the *Kyrie* ('Lord, have mercy ...') (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p.320) following the invocations led by the priest.

When the celebration of Confirmation for the first time takes place outside Sunday Mass, the singing or recitation of the Gloria may be omitted, unless it is called for by the liturgy of the day.

Collect

LITURGY OF THE WORD

When the Sacrament of Confirmation takes place within Sunday Mass, the readings and responsorial psalm of the day must be followed. Except for those with hearing impairment, the congregation does not need a copy of the words of the readings.

The First and Second Readings should be proclaimed from the Lectionary. Typically a 'Reader/Lector' proclaims the Word of God at Mass. This person has been trained and commissioned for this work in the church. The Word of God is not merely 'read' at Mass, it is proclaimed. For this reason, the most appropriate person to do this work is a trained Minister of the Word. This is true, too, for the celebration of Mass when the Sacrament of Confirmation takes place.

First Reading (Old Testament)

Text: _____

Proclaimed by: _____

Responsorial Psalm

The psalm should be sung. It is led by the psalmist, a cantor or the choir. The congregation and all the ministers should be facilitated to take up their part and sing the response each time.

Led by: _____

Second Reading (New Testament)

Text: _____

Proclaimed by: _____

Gospel Acclamation

The Gospel acclamation should be sung. The congregation and all the ministers repeat the acclamation after the cantor or choir. The cantor or the choir alone sings the verse.

The congregation and all the ministers repeat the acclamation after the verse has been sung.

Verse sung by: _____

Gospel

Proclaimed by: _____ (priest/deacon)

Homily

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

1. Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Celebrant: Do you renounce Satan?

Candidates: I do.

Celebrant: And all his works?

Candidates: I do.

Celebrant: And all his empty promises?

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, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose 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.

Candidates: Amen.

2. Laying On of Hands

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.

The celebrant(s) stretch out their hands over the candidates and pray:

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 judgement 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,
Amen.

3. Anointing with chrism

Family members and/or sponsors present the candidate for Confirmation to the bishop. The sponsor places his/her hand on the candidate's shoulder as a sign of support.

Celebrant: (Name), be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Child: Amen.

Celebrant: Peace be with you.

Child: And with your spirit.

Creed

Prayer of the Faithful

The intentions for the Prayer of the Faithful are given by the deacon. In the absence of a deacon, the intentions are presented by another representative of the community that has gathered. Ideally, however, only one person gives these intentions, so that the focus of the whole gathering is on the prayer, and not on the person who is giving it. If one of the candidates for Confirmation gives an intention, it would be meaningful to have the text composed by the children themselves, with help.

Introduction by the priest

Sample Intentions

1. We pray for the Pope;
(pause to pray)
that we may be led and guided by his teaching and example.
Lord, hear us.
2. We pray for our parents, our first teachers;
(pause to pray)
that they may continue to be our best teachers in all things.
Lord, hear us.
3. We pray for those who have helped us to prepare for this day, especially our teacher(s) _____;
(pause to pray)
that they may be blessed in their work.
Lord, hear us.
4. We pray for those who are sick, and so cannot be here today;
(pause to pray)
that they may feel God's healing presence in their lives.
Lord, hear us.
5. We pray for those who have died;
(pause to pray)
that they may be at peace at home with God in heaven.
Lord, hear us.

Conclusion by the priest

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Preparation and Presentation of the Gifts: The gifts brought forward at this time are bread and wine and the money or gift that has been collected.

Offertory Hymn

- Instrumental Music

Or, suggestion from *Grow in Love*:

- *We Come to You, Lord Jesus* composed by Maura Kitching (Third Class/P5 Teacher's Manual, p.338)
- *The Welcome Table*, traditional American (Fifth Class/P7 Teacher's Manual, p.375)

The following Mass parts are sung by the congregation and all the ministers:

- *Holy Holy (Sanctus)* (Fifth Class/P7 Teacher's Manual, p.383)
- *Mystery of Faith* (Fifth Class/P7 Teacher's Manual, p.384)
- *Great Amen* (Fifth Class/P7 Teacher's Manual, p.385)
- *Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)* (Fifth Class/P7 Teacher's Manual, p.386) (may be sung by the choir alone)

COMMUNION RITE

Communion Hymn/Song

Suggestions from *Grow in Love*:

- *The Last Supper*, composed by Bernard Sexton (First Class/P3 Teacher's Manual, p.190)
- *Eat this Bread*, composed by Jacques Berthier (Fourth Class/P6 Teacher's Manual, p.402)
- *We Come to Your Feast* composed by Michael Joncas (Fifth Class/P7 Teacher's Manual, p.376)
- *Céad Míle Fáilte Romhat*, Traidisiúnta (Third Class/P5 Teacher's Manual, p.339)

CONCLUDING RITE

Final Blessing and Dismissal

Concluding Hymn/Song

Suggestions from *Grow in Love*:

- *Spirit-Filled Day*, composed by Mary Amond O'Brien (Fifth Class/P7 Teacher's Manual, p.326)
- *This Is the Day* by Mary Amond O'Brien (Second Class/P4 Teacher's Manual, p.212)
- *This Little Light of Mine* – Traditional American (First Class/P2 Teacher's Manual, p.290)
- *Go Tell Everyone*, words by Alan Dale, music by Hubert Richards (Fifth Class/P7 Teacher's Manual, p.323)