

CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION (WITHIN MASS)

During the Confirmation rite, the candidates for Confirmation are called by name, and each comes forward with his/her sponsor. This is followed by the Renewal of Baptismal Promises, which emphasises again the link between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. The bishop and/or the priest(s) who are administering the sacrament extend their hands over the candidates and ask God to send the Holy Spirit upon them. This is called the invocation of the Holy Spirit. The sacramental sign of Confirmation is the anointing with chrism with the words 'Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit'. Those who are anointed at Confirmation 'share more completely in the mission of Jesus Christ and the fullness of the Holy Spirit with which he is filled, so that their lives may give off "the aroma of Christ"' (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* [CCC], no. 1294). By this anointing, the confirmed receive the 'mark' or seal of the Holy Spirit (CCC, no. 1295).

PREPARATORY NOTES

Date: _____

Time: _____

Celebrant(s): _____

Music

Where a parish choir usually provides the music for Sunday Mass, it is important to liaise with them well in advance. Some suggestions for hymns are given below, but these are by no means exhaustive. Please feel free to use suitable alternatives, making sure that the whole congregation is provided with the words to sing.

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 young people and families, and to honour the special occasion that is being celebrated.

There are a few points to bear in mind:

- 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 not essential for the young people to prepare artwork for the inside of the church. In some cases, this can distract from the ceremony itself. It may be appropriate, however, to display the young people's artwork in the entrance hall/porch of the church.

Notes regarding the distribution of Holy Communion

- It is 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.

CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION (within Mass)

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Hymn/Song

- See music suggestions from the *Grow in Love* programme in these resources.

Sign of the Cross and Greeting

Presentation of Symbols

- If the candidates have prepared symbols of all that they have learned in preparation for celebrating their 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

Gloria (*Omit during Lent and Advent*)

Collect

LITURGY OF THE WORD

When the Confirmation ceremony takes place within Sunday Mass, the readings and responsorial psalm of the day must be followed. The First and Second Readings should be proclaimed from the Lectionary. The most appropriate person to do this work is a trained Minister of the Word.

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 responses.

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

The Rite of Confirmation takes place as follows:

1. Renewal of Baptismal Promises
2. Laying On of Hands
3. Anointing with Chrism

1. Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Celebrant: Do you reject 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 now 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 usually offered by the deacon or, in the absence of a deacon, by another representative of the community. On this occasion, however, one or more of the newly confirmed could be selected to offer the Prayer of the Faithful. Where this is the case, it would be meaningful to have the text composed by the young people themselves, with assistance as required.

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 or guardians, 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*)
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

Our Father

Introduction by the priest

All: *Our Father*

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 gifts that have been collected.

Offertory Hymn

- Instrumental music
- or
- See music suggestions from the *Grow in Love* programme in these resources.

Eucharistic Prayer

One of the Eucharistic Prayers for Children would be especially suitable for use at this liturgy.

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

- *Holy Holy (Sanctus)*
- *Mystery of Faith*
- *Great Amen*
- *Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)*

COMMUNION RITE

Communion Hymn/Song

- See music suggestions from the *Grow in Love* programme in these resources.

CONCLUDING RITES

Final Blessing and Dismissal

Concluding Hymn/Song

- See music suggestions from the *Grow in Love* programme in these resources.