

CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION (OUTSIDE OF 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

The Confirmation Ceremony will be greatly enhanced by the presence of musicians and/or choirs, whether from the parish or the school. 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.

CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION (outside of 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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

When the Confirmation ceremony takes place outside Sunday Mass, some or all of the readings may be taken from the Mass of the day or the Mass of Christian Initiation (Lectionary III, p. 18 and following). You may also like to use readings from the Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland (2015). These are given below. Where the celebrant of the Sacrament of Confirmation is the local ordinary (bishop), he may request that particular readings be used.

The Scripture readings should be proclaimed from the Lectionary. 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.

First Reading (Old Testament)

Suggestions from the Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland (2015):

- Isaiah 42:1-4 (Jesus anointed by the Holy Spirit to help the weak and suffering)
- Isaiah 43:1-4 ('I have called you by your name')
- Jeremiah 1:4-9 (Call of Jeremiah)
- Micah 6:6-8 (What does the Lord require?)

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.

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

Led by: _____

Second Reading (New Testament)

Suggestions from the Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland (2015):

- Acts 1:12-14 (Prayerful waiting for the Holy Spirit)
- Acts 2:1-13 (Pentecost)
- Acts 4:32-35 (Early Church)
- Acts 8:14-17 (Confirmation in early Church)
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (Varieties of gifts)

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

Suggestions from the Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland (2015):

- Luke 24:13-35 (The Road to Emmaus)
- Matthew 5:1-14 (Sermon on the Mount)
- Luke 4:16-22 (The spirit of the Lord)
- John 16:12-15 (Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit)
- Matthew 3:13-17 (Baptism of Jesus)
- John 14:15-17 (Spirit as advocate)

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.

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 candidates for Confirmation 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.

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 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*)
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

Our Father

Introduction by the priest

All: *Our Father*

CONCLUDING RITES

Final Blessing and Dismissal

Concluding Hymn/Song

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