

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Introductory Rites

All stand as the entrance hymn is sung and the procession enters the church. Some of the candidates for Confirmation carry symbols of faith including their religious text and workbooks, a symbol for each of the schools that the candidates attend and the Oil of Chrism that they will be confirmed with. The bishop kisses the altar, and incenses the altar and the cross.

Entrance Hymn

Greeting

Bishop: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Bishop: Peace be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Introduction & Welcome

Penitential Rite

Bishop: My brothers and sisters to prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries let us call to mind our sins.

Child 1: You raised to life the dead in the Spirit. Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord have mercy.**

Child 2: You bring pardon and peace to the sinner. Christ have mercy.

All: **Christ have mercy.**

Child 3: You bring light to those in darkness. Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord have mercy**

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

All: **Amen.**

Gloria (Said)

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king,
Almighty God and father,
We worship you, we give you thanks,
We praise you for your glory,
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world:
Have mercy on us:
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
Receive our prayer
For you alone are the holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the most high Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit
In the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Opening Prayer

Bishop: Let us pray

All pray in silence for a brief period.

Lord fulfil your promise.
Send your Holy Spirit to make us witnesses before the world to the
Good News proclaimed by Jesus Christ, our Lord who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

(All sit.)

Liturgy of the Word

First reading (*Child 4*)

A reading from book of the prophet Joel (3:1-3a)

The Lord said:
“When that time comes, I will give my Spirit to everyone. Your sons and
daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men
will have dreams. In those days I will give my Spirit to my servants, both men
and women. I will work miracles in the sky above and wonders on the earth
below”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm (*Child 5*)

On Eagle's Wings

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in His shadow for life,
say to the Lord: “My refuge,
my Rock in whom I trust!”

*And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of His hand.*

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear:
under His wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield.

You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come.

For to His angels He's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;

upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Second reading (*Child 6*)

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (*12:4-13*)

Brothers and sisters:
There are different kinds of spiritual gifts,
but they all come from the same Spirit.
There are different ways to serve the same Lord,
and we can each do different things.
Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do.

The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others.
Some of us can speak with wisdom,
while others can speak with knowledge,
but these gifts come from the same Spirit.

To others the Spirit has given great faith
or the power to heal the sick
or the power to work mighty miracles.

Some of us are prophets,
and some of us recognise when God's Spirit is present.
Others can speak different kinds of languages,
and still others can tell what these languages mean.

But it is the Spirit who does all this
and decides which gifts to give to each of us.

The body of Christ has many different parts,
just as any other body does.
Some of us are Jews,
and others are Gentiles.
Some of us are slaves,
and others are free.
But God's Spirit baptised each of us
and made us part of the body of Christ.
Now we each drink from that same Spirit.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

(All stand to greet the Gospel)

Gospel Acclamation

Pilgrim Alleluia

Alle, Allelu, Alleluia!

Speak O Lord, your servant here is listening.
You have the message of eternal life.
Speak O Lord, your servant here is listening.
You have the message of eternal life.

Alle, Allelu, Alleluia!

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke. (4:14-21)

All: **Glory to you O Lord.**

Jesus returned to Galilee with the power of the Spirit. News about him spread everywhere. He taught in the Jewish meeting places, and everyone praised him.

Jesus went back to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and as usual he went to the meeting place on the Sabbath. When he stood up to read from the Scriptures, he was given the book of Isaiah the Prophet. He opened it and read,

*“The Lord’s Spirit has come to me,
because he has chosen me
to tell the good news to the poor.
The Lord has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners,
to give sight to the blind,
to free everyone who suffers,
and to say, ‘This is the year the Lord has chosen.’”*

Jesus closed the book, then handed it back to the man in charge and sat down. Everyone in the meeting place looked straight at Jesus. Then Jesus said to them, “What you have just heard me read has come true today.”

Priest: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

(All Sit)

The Rite Of Confirmation

❖ The Calling of the Candidates

After the reading of the Gospel all sit down. Those who have prepared the candidates now present them to the Bishop. When called, the candidates stand and remain standing until all have been presented.

Teacher: My Lord Bishop, may I introduce to you the Primary 7 pupils of _____.
I invite them to stand and I present them to you for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

❖ Homily

The candidates then sit while the Bishop addresses them, their parents, their sponsors and the whole parish community.

❖ Renewal of Baptismal Promises

After the address the candidates are invited to stand.

Bishop: Do you reject Satan and all his works and all his empty promises?

Candidates: **I do.**

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of Heaven and Earth?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: 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.

Bishop: 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.

Bishop: 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.

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

Candidates: Amen.

❖ **The Laying on of Hands**

Bishop: My dear friends,
In Baptism God
our Father gave 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 Bishop now invites the candidates to stand and sing their Confirmation hymn.

Come Holy Spirit (© Bernard Sexton)

Holy Spirit sent by God to make our spirits free,
Light the darkness in our lives and help us clearly see.
Holy Spirit by your presence give us strength to share,
Share the message of God's word, to love, be kind and care.

*Come Holy Spirit, come be the light that shines in the darkness.
Come Holy Spirit, come be the fire that burns in our hearts.*

Holy Spirit, teach us wisdom, teach us right from wrong.
Teach us how to love our neighbour, help us to belong.
Holy Spirit, show us how to sing God's name, rejoice.
Praise God's wonder here on earth, united with one voice.

Holy Spirit, move our hearts and let your bright fire burn.
Be our guide, there at our side, when to God we turn.
Holy Spirit, move our hands, our feet, our mouths, our eyes.
May our actions speak your Word forever in our lives.

The candidates all kneel and the Bishop then extends his hands over them as a sign of the sending down of the Holy Spirit upon them.

Bishop: 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 a 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.

All: **Amen.**

❖ **The Anointing with Chrism**

All sit. The candidates for confirmation now come forward in pairs to the Bishop together with their respective sponsors. At the front of the altar, the sponsor places their right hand on the candidate's shoulder. The Bishop then anoints each candidate on the forehead with chrism.

Bishop: **N..... be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit**

Candidate: **Amen.**

Bishop: Peace be with you.

Candidate: **And also with you.**

Background music is played, as the congregation prays silently for the Candidates,.

When all the candidates have been confirmed they kneel.

❖ **Thanksgiving Prayer after Confirmation**

Bishop: God our Father, we thank you for sending us the Holy Spirit whom Jesus promised us.

All: **Amen.**

Bishop: Lord Jesus, we thank you for sending us the Holy Spirit to stay with us always.

All: **Amen.**

Bishop: Holy Spirit, we thank you for coming to us. We ask you to stay with us all our lives long and to help us in all that happens to us.

All: **Amen.**

Bishop: You are the Holy Spirit of peace. Help us to become young men and women of peace.

All: **Amen.**

Bishop: You are the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ.
Help us to have the same spirit and mind and heart as Christ.
Make us ready to do hard things for Christ.

All: **Amen.**

❖ **General Intercessions** (*All Stand*)

Bishop: My dear friends let us be one in prayer to God our Father, as we are one in faith and hope and in the love His Spirit gives.

Child 7: For us sons and daughters of God, confirmed by the gifts of the Spirit.
 That we may give witness to Christ by lives built on faith and love.
 Lord hear us.

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

Child 8: For our parents and godparents and teachers, who led us in faith.
 That by word and example they may always encourage us to follow the way of Jesus Christ.
 Lord hear us.

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

Child 9: For the holy Church of God.
 That God who gathers his people together, by the Holy Spirit may help them to grow in unity of faith and love, until His Son returns in glory.
 Lord hear us.

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

Child 10: For the boys and girls in our school and parish.
 That the Holy Spirit may inspire some of them to follow Christ in the priesthood and religious life.
 Lord hear us.

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

Child 11: For all the peoples of the world and especially the people of our own country.
 That God may bless everyone with his peace, take away violence, and give all the protection of his love.
 Lord hear us.

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

Child 12: For all the dead who have gone before us, in faith.
 That they may receive the reward of eternal life.
 Lord hear us.

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

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

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Procession

(*All sit*)

(*Candidates 13-24*)

The newly confirmed bring a number of gifts forward at the offertory while an instrumental piece of music is played. The first group dress the altar with a cloth, candles and flowers. The second group offer the bread and wine which will become the Body and Blood of Christ.

Offertory Hymn

*Sanctus, Sanctus when we love with our hearts.
Sanctus, Sanctus when we give with our lives.
Help us all O Lord to live in your love.
Let our lives show all your ways.*

In our work, in our play, when we think, when we pray,
Help us all to be true to your way, Yahweh.
In our paths as we meet people on the street,
Let our smiles light up their lives, Yahweh.

Sanctus

Preparation of the gifts

Bishop: Pray, brethren, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: **May the Lord receive the sacrifice from your hands,
for the praise and glory of His name,
for our good and the good of His church.**

Prayer Over The Gifts

Bishop: Lord,
you have signed our brothers and sisters with the cross of your Son
and anointed them with the oil of salvation. As they offer themselves
with Christ, continue to fill their hearts with your Spirit. We ask this
through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

(All kneel.)

Children's Eucharistic Prayer III

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Bishop: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

All: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

We thank you God our Father. You made us live for You and for each other. We can see and speak to one another, and become friends, and share our joys and sorrows. And so Father we gladly thank you with everyone who believes in You; with the saints and angels, we rejoice and praise You, singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. (x 2)**

Yes Lord, you are holy: you are kind to us and to all men. For this we thank you. We thank, above all for your Son, Jesus Christ.

You sent him into this world because people had turned away from you and no longer loved each other. He opened our eyes and our hearts to understand that we are brothers and sisters and you are Father of us all.

He now brings us together to one table and asks us to do what he did.
Father we ask you to bless these gifts of bread and wine and make them holy. Change them for us into the body and blood of Jesus Christ, your Son.

On the night before he died for us, he had supper for the last time with his disciples. He took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread and gave it to his friends saying:

**TAKE THIS ALL OF YOU AND EAT IT.
THIS IS MY BODY WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In the same way. He took a cup of wine. He gave thanks and handed the cup to his disciples saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU , AND DRINK FROM IT.
THIS IS THE CUP OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND EVERLASTING COVENANT.
IT WILL BE SHED FOR YOU AND FOR ALL,
SO THAT SINS MAY BE FORGIVEN.**

Then he said to them:

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

God our Father, we remember with joy all that Jesus did to save us. In this holy sacrifice which he gave as a gift to his church, we remember his death and resurrection. Father in heaven accept us together with your beloved Son. He willingly died for us, but you raised him to life again.

We thank you and say:

All: **GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST**

Jesus now lives with you in glory, but he is also here on earth, among us.

We thank you and say:

All: **GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST**

One day he will come again in glory and in his kingdom there will be no more sadness.

We thank you and say:

All: **GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST**

Father in heaven, you have called us to receive the body and blood of Christ at this table and to be filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit. Through this sacred meal give us the strength to please you more and more.

Lord, our God, remember John Paul our Pope; Patrick, our Bishop, and all other Bishops. Help all who follow Jesus to work for peace and to bring happiness to others. Bring us all together, at last, with Mary, the Mother of God, and all the saints, to live with you and to be one with Christ in Heaven.

Through Him,
with Him,
in Him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory and honour is Yours,
Almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

GREAT AMEN

All: **Amen alleluia,
forever and ever
Forever alleluia,
forever and ever.
Amen**

(All Stand.)

Communion Rite

Bishop: Jesus taught us to call God our Father. So we have the courage to say:

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven..
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Bishop: Deliver us Lord, from every evil and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

Bishop: Lord Jesus, you said to your apostles, I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins but on the faith of our Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Bishop: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

Bishop: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All teachers are invited to come forward to receive the sign of peace from the Bishop.

Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world,
Grant us your peace, Grant us your peace.**

Breaking of Bread

The newly confirmed come forward in pairs to receive Holy Communion from the Bishop. Anyone who for whatever reason is unable to receive communion is invited to receive a blessing from the bishop or one of the priests. They should indicate that they wish to receive a blessing rather than Communion by

crossing their arms across their chest as they come forward. Children who have not yet made their First Holy Communion may come forward for a blessing in the same way.

During Communion a number of hymns are sung.

Prayer After Communion

Bishop: Let us pray.

All pray in silence for a brief period.

Lord,
you gave your Son as food to those you anoint with your Spirit.
Help them to fulfil your law
by living in freedom as you children.
May they live in holiness and be your witnesses to the world.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Confirmation Pledge

The "Confirmation Pledge", which is not part of the Sacrament and is a voluntary pledge, is made now.

Bishop: For the glory of God, and to help my own Christian life, I promise, until the age of eighteen, that I will not take intoxicating drinks. Holy spirit of God, whom I have received today in Confirmation gave me grace and courage to keep this pledge. Holy Mary, Mother of God, help me to keep this promise. St. Patrick and all the saints of Ireland, help the Irish people, and especially young Irish people, to practice temperance.

Children: **Amen.**

Act of Devotion to Our Lady (Candidates 25-30)

A small procession is formed in which lighted candles and flowers are brought and laid before Our Lady's shrine. At the shrine the following hymn is sung.

As I Kneel Before You

As I kneel before you, as I bow my head in prayer,
Take this day make it yours and fill me with your love.

Ave maria, gratia plena dominus te cum, benedicta tu

All I have I give you, every dream and wish are yours
mother of Christ, mother of mine. Present them to my lord.

As I kneel before you and I see your smiling face.
Every thought, every word is lost in your embrace.

The parish priest may say a few words at this point.

Concluding Rites

Blessing And Dismissal

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Bishop: Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

God our Father made you his children by water and the Holy Spirit;
may he bless you and look over you with his Fatherly love.

All: **Amen.**

Bishop: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, promised that the Spirit of truth would be with his church
forever;
may he bless you and give you courage in professing the true faith.

All: **Amen.**

Bishop: The Holy Spirit came down upon the disciples and set their hearts on fire with love;
may he bless you, keep you one in faith in love, and bring you to the joy of God's kingdom.

All: **Amen.**

Bishop: May Almighty God bless you;
the Father ✠, and the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit ✠.

All: **Amen.**

Bishop: The Mass is ended. Go in peace.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Recessional Hymn

Happy In the Presence

*Happy in the presence of the Lord
We come and sing our praises Lord Jesus
Happy in the presence of the Lord
We come and sing our praise to the Lord of all.*

1) Come and share the bread of life Bread that will feed us help and protect us. Come and share the stories of old Stories of Jesus his work and his world.	2) Come an share the memories we've had, Happy days, sad days, days full of joy. Come to tell the Lord that we love We'll live the life he told us to live.
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