

CONFIRMATION

THE FIRST PENTECOST.

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky, which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. They then saw what looked like tongues of fire, which spread out and touched each person there. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

(Acts 2:1-4)



After the crucifixion of Jesus, the Apostles were scared and hid away in a room, because they were afraid of what might happen to them. The Holy Spirit gave them the strength and courage they needed to carry out the task of spreading the Good News about the Resurrection of Jesus.

Confirmation is another Sacrament of initiation just like Baptism, where the gifts received at Baptism are sealed. The Holy Spirit is given to set people aside for a special task, which is to be a witness to Christ's Resurrection and triumph over death. At Confirmation the promises made at Baptism by the parents are made by the candidate. The candidate is choosing good and rejecting bad in their life. The symbolic gifts of the spirit received here are not so much received as awakened, because each of us already has these gifts.



Service of Confirmation

Preparation

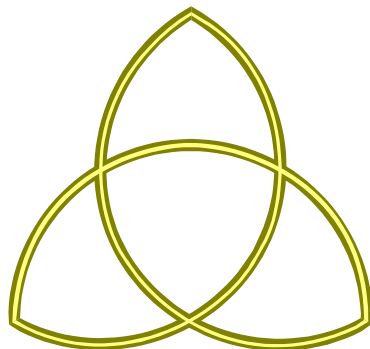
To prepare for Confirmation, the candidate will go for instruction and usually a retreat, which is a day of reflection to think about what it means to be a Christian. There is usually a meeting for parents to sort out a sponsor for the candidate, (usually a Godparent or a close friend or relative). The candidate will normally take part in a Service of Reconciliation to help them to focus on the positive gifts that confirmation will bring to them.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

Each candidate is given a confirmation card with their details on it e.g. their chosen name and their sponsor. During the ceremony each candidate is presented to the Bishop.

RENEWING THE BAPTISM PROMISES

As most children in the Roman Catholic tradition are baptised as babies, the Sacrament of Confirmation is an opportunity for them to make the Baptism promises for themselves. It is for this reason that the candidate's promises to choose good and re-affirms their faith in God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.



THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

The ceremony takes place during Mass and the Bishop carries out Confirmation. The Bishop places his hands over the head of the candidate. This was an ancient sign of being chosen for a special task e.g. in the Old Testament prophets, would do this to kings. The Laying on of Hands symbolises the power of the Holy Spirit, which gives the candidate power and strength. The candidate has been chosen to bear witness to the values and teachings of Jesus.

ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

Just like in Baptism Chrism oil is used as a symbol of strength and courage. Each candidate steps forward and kneels in front of the Bishop; the sponsor places their right hand on the candidate's

shoulder. The Bishop then lays his Hands on the candidate's head and puts the Chrism oil on their forehead making the Sign of the Cross and saying; -



“Receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit”
The candidate replies “Amen”

The Bishop then gives the Sign of Peace to the candidate by saying;-

“Peace be with you”

The candidate replies;-

“And also with you.”

The Mass then continues, and at the end of the Mass a special blessing is given.



Signs used in confirmation

Laying on of Hands; - Strength & Courage.

Oil of Chrism; - Chosen & a sign of God's loving relationship with humans

Sign of the Cross; - Belonging to God

Sign of Peace; - Holy Spirit is represented as a Dove and a Dove is a symbol of peace. The Holy Spirit brings peace between humans and God.

The Naming; - Symbolic from the Old Testament, God called people by name before giving them a task. It is not necessary to take a Confirmation name; the Christian name is sufficient. Candidate called to bear witness to the teachings of Jesus.

CONFIRMATION

The Gifts of The Holy Spirit

It is important to know the gifts of the spirit which are received during the Sacrament of Confirmation which are given during the laying on of hands, where the Bishop says; -

"....Send down your Holy Spirit upon them to be there 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...."

(Catechism of the Catholic Church 1299)

QUESTIONS.

- 1) Name another initiation ceremony mentioned?
- 2) Who confirms the candidate?
- 3) Pick four gifts of the Holy Spirit and explain what you think they mean.
- 4) Explain what a sponsor is?
- 5) Explain the significance of ; -
 - i) the laying on of hands
 - ii) anointing in the sacrament
- 6) Why are the baptismal promises renewed at Confirmation?
- 7) What is the importance associated with the name?
- 8) Why is the sign of peace important?

CONFIRMATION HELP SHEET

QUESTIONS

1) Name another initiation ceremony?

**Ans) Another initiation ceremony mentioned is a) Baptism
b) Marriage**

2) Who confirms the candidate?

**Ans) The a) Priest confirms the candidate
b) Bishop**

3) Pick four gifts of the Spirit and explain what you think they mean.

Help) The gifts of the Spirit are; -

- 1) Wisdom**
- 2) Understanding**
- 3) Right Judgement**
- 4) Courage**
- 5) Knowledge**
- 6) Reverence**
- 7) Awe & Wonder**

Pick four of the above list and explain what you think they mean. Here are some ideas for you.

- A) The ability to carry out a task even though you may be afraid.**
- B) The ability to make a decision for the benefit of others.**
- C) Having respect for sacred objects.**
- D) Using your knowledge & understanding of things to advise others.**
- E) Reading and gaining information through experience.**
- F) Interpreting the information gained to make sense of things.**
- G) Experiencing something outside of you, which causes surprise.**

4) Explain what a sponsor is?

Ans) A sponsor is; -

- a) Someone who takes on the role of the Godparent like at Baptism.**
- b) A responsible Roman Catholic adult.**
- c) Usually a relative or friend of the family or Godparent.**

5) Explain the significance of :-

- i) The laying on of hands.
- ii) Anointing with oil.

Help) Look in the relevant sections on the sheet and also at the signs used.

6) Why are the baptismal promises renewed at Confirmation?

Ans) The baptismal promises are renewed at Confirmation so that; -

- A) The candidate can make the promises for themselves.**
- B) Confirmation and Baptism are closely linked, as the candidate accepts and confirms these promises.**

7) What is the importance associated with the name?

8) Why is the sign of peace important?