



Confirmation

- a) What does Confirmation mean?
- b) What are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?



Prayer

Dear Lord, we gather again today to hear your word and to learn more about you.

Thank you for your presence among us here, now and always.

As we prepare for our confirmation we ask that we may be guided by your Holy Spirit so that we may listen, understand and grow in the light of your love.

Amen.



Getting to know each other



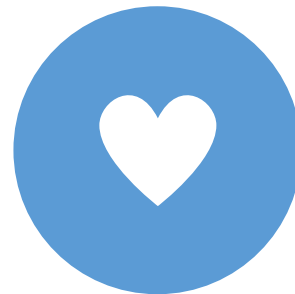
If I were a...



If I were a fictional character I would be ...
because...



If I were an animal I
would be a...
because...



If I were a kind of food I
would be a ...
because...



Why are you going to be confirmed?

Think on your own and write in your journal

- What is the main reason you have decided to be confirmed
- Has anyone influenced your decision?
- *Let's gather together your answers.*





Direct help from God

Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit we receive at Confirmation we get direct help from God to live out the task God gave us at baptism. All through our lives we want to be independent but we are all in need of help sometimes.

- a) Name something that you have needed help with recently. It doesn't matter how large or small this is.
- b) Name one way in which you have responded to someone else's needs recently.
- c) Identify any areas where you currently need help or can think of someone who needs support.

Pentecost

Make notes



The meaning

- Jesus sent his Holy Spirit to be with his apostles to give them strength and courage to face the difficult times ahead. We hear that they were given the power to “express themselves.” They were given all the help they needed.
- This happens at our confirmation. We are confirmed as baptised people who have a job to do. The Church confirms us and says to us: **“You have a unique role to play, without you the Church is not complete.”** The gift of the Holy Spirit empowers us to fulfil our role, to express ourselves, in the Church and in the world.





What do you think the word “faith” means?

Is your Catholic faith important to you?

The Holy Spirit

- Confirmation is often called the sacrament of the Spirit, or the seal of the Spirit. And because the Holy Spirit has somewhat dropped out of our horizon, it is no wonder that Confirmation has shared something of his fate!
- If Baptism primarily emphasises our union with Christ, in Confirmation the emphasis is more on our fellowship with the Holy Spirit. **Confirmation completes the Sacrament of Baptism.**
- There is to be sure a secret hidden quality about the Spirit, which makes it hard to speak or write about him. This elusiveness is evident in the symbols used by Scripture to point towards him.
- He is like fire or water, or “rushing, mighty wind” (**Acts 2:2**)

The Holy Spirit



When to receive Confirmation

- Confirmation is not and never has been some form of puberty rite.
- Traditionally it belongs with baptism as part of the ceremony of Christian initiation. In the East, Confirmation is given to infants immediately after their baptism. In the West, if someone has been baptised in infancy, his Confirmation is usually deferred for several years. This custom really grew up by accident rather than design.
- If someone has been baptised as a baby, whether in the Catholic Church or in another denomination, but only comes to faith in Christ as an adult, he is not re-baptised, but he does need to be confirmed.
- Most parishes run one programme of preparation for Confirmation for teenagers from Catholic families and a separate programme for adults. Usually, the teenagers are confirmed in a group during the bishop's visit.



What happens at Confirmation?

The Rite of Confirmation

- Within the context of Holy Mass, the bishop administers the Sacrament of Confirmation after the Gospel and his homily.
- **Renewal of Baptismal Vows and Profession of Faith** – You declare Yes to God and No to evil. You profess your faith before your bishop and before the assembled community. In the same way, after Confirmation you should courageously stand up for your faith.
- The bishop usually together with the priests associated with him, **lay or extend hands** over the candidates. This practice goes back to the apostles who stretched out their hands when they bestowed the Sacrament of Confirmation, gift of the Holy Spirit.
- The bishop says **a prayer**, going back to at least the early sixth century, **asking the Father to send the Holy Spirit** to be their helper and guide and give the sevenfold gift of wisdom and understanding, right judgment and courage, knowledge and reverence, wonder and awe.

The Anointing with Chrism

- The candidates are then signed on the forehead with chrism in the sign of the cross, saying “***N. Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit***”. This is the mark, the seal of the Holy Spirit. No one can ever erase it; no one can ever repeat it. It lasts forever. There is no power in the world that can remove the seal of the Holy Spirit. All the elements are meant to convey the giving of the Holy Spirit. Chrism is a consecrated healing oil made of olive oil and perfumed with balsam. Both in the Bible and in the ancient world, oil has been a sign of abundance and joy, which cleanses, nourishes, heals and soothes pain. Oil makes us beautiful, healthy and strong.
- **The anointing with Chrism is a feature of Baptism, Confirmation and ordination to the priesthood.**
- The anointing with holy chrism is sign of consecration. In the OT kings were anointed. Jesus was also anointed; that is why his name is “Christ = the anointed one”. Hence, we too, as Christians, are “anointed ones”, united with Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit, so that our lives may exude the fragrance of Christ.
- **The seal of the Holy Spirit means that you now belong entirely to Christ, that you have placed yourself forever in his service and will be protected by him at the end of time.**



The Gifts of the Holy Spirit



When you are confirmed you will receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:

1. Wisdom
2. Understanding
3. Right Judgement (“counsel”)
4. Courage (fortitude)
5. Knowledge
6. Reverence (piety)
7. Awe of God (fear of God).


1. What do you think they mean?

2. When can you put these gifts into practice? Think about your school, your parish, your family and your friends.

*For example, **Wisdom**: applying knowledge and experience together well.*

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The image features a person in a white clerical robe, likely a priest or deacon, holding a lit candle. The person is positioned on the right side of the frame. The background is filled with numerous other lit candles, creating a warm, glowing atmosphere. The candles are arranged in rows, and their light is soft and diffused. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text. The overall scene suggests a religious ceremony or a moment of prayer.

Is it important to
be confirmed into
the Catholic faith?

Confirmation is important because:

Confirmation is the necessary completion of Baptism.

Only when you are confirmed are you a fully fledged Catholic Christian.

Confirmation deepens your relationship to God your Father.

Confirmation unites you more closely with Christ.

Confirmation increases the Holy Spirit within you.

Confirmation unites you still more strongly with the Church.

Confirmation strengthens you, so that you can live your faith and stand up for it.

Read YOUCAT 203
CCC: 1303



A Sacramental Sign

1. What do you think the laying on of hands symbolizes?
2. The Oil of Chrism was used at your Baptism. What does it symbolise?
3. Why are these signs used particularly for Confirmation?



A Sacramental Sign

1. What do you think the laying on of hands symbolizes?

It is the sign of the giving and receiving of the Holy Spirit.

2. The Oil of Chrism was used at your Baptism. What does it symbolise?

Anointing with oil comes from the idea of anointing kings, warriors and athletes with oil in ancient times, to give them strength in the struggles and challenges ahead.

3. Why are these signs used particularly for Confirmation?

Confirmation is when we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and when we fully accept our role as Christians.



Luke-Acts Series

Acts 1-7





Confirmation increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us

- St Thomas Aquinas described Confirmation as “the fullness of the Holy Spirit.” According to the Catechism, the main effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is “the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost.” To be a complete Christian means the Holy Spirit guiding my life through his gifts.
- The Holy Spirit’s personal name is Gift; he is the source of all gifts. The Spirit comes to give us gifts that have to be used.



The Seven Gifts are really one:
places where the Spirit makes his
presence felt.

- When we think of the gift of the Spirit we might be tempted to think of gifts and graces that are unexpected, dramatic and spectacular – like the gift of tongues (where someone is given to speak about God in words he does not understand), or healing or miracle-working.
- St Paul does mention these. But he also speaks of the variety of functions in the Church as gifts: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, helpers administrators – all those things that build up the church.

The Paraclete

- The prayer before Confirmation speaks of this sevenfold Gift with which the candidate will be endowed.
- The sevenfold gift also points to the way the Holy Spirit is ever ready to serve and help us. That is why we speak of the Spirit as the “Paraclete”, which is a Greek word for someone who comes to another’s help, an advocate.
- He helps us and serves us by giving us insight and understanding of the things of God, by giving us the strength for resolute and courageous witness.





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- As well as these seven gifts, **St Paul speaks of the fruits of the Spirit:**
 - **Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.**
 - All this is what it is to live a life in the Spirit, to be a confirmed Christian. We will see the Spirit working in us when we see his fruits.
 - To be a confirmed Christian is to use the gifts you are given for the good of all.
 - Each believer has the right and duty to use these gifts in the Church and in the world. These gifts are to be sought and prayed for.
 - The Sacrament of Confirmation is the sacrament of the mysterious influence of the Spirit upon the whole life of each Christian.

Important Dates

Blaze

Saturday 11th
May

Practice Date



Saturday 18th May



2:30pm

CONFIRMATION DAY

Sunday 2nd June

Confirmation Name and Sponsor

Further information about choosing a sponsor and saint's name [can be found here](#), and will be discussed at one of the forthcoming sessions.

It would be good to give this some consideration over the Easter break and be sure to invite the Sponsor to the Confirmation day.

Confirmation Dress Code

As you may be shopping over Easter break we thought it would be helpful to know: Relaxed formal - smart dress, dress trousers or trouser suit, shirt and tie or suit, shirt and tie are all appropriate.

No trainers please and shoes should be able to be walked in safely. Shoulders should be covered and dresses to the knee please.



What have we learnt today?

What has this made you think about?