

# The Mass of Confirmation

## Praying together

### Come Holy Spirit

The day is approaching when the Holy Spirit will be given to you in Confirmation. Today we pray

### Listening to the Word

Today, we listen to the encouragement that St Paul gives to the Colossians (Col 1.9-12). His words are inspired by the Holy Spirit and apply also to us. We pray for the strength of the Holy Spirit.

### Asking God's blessing

As the time of your Confirmation Mass approaches, we ask the Holy Spirit to fill us all with a lifelong and devoted love for Jesus Christ that shows in our practical service of him and our commitment to spread the gospel.



## The great day itself

### The visit of the Bishop

You are important and the sacrament you are to receive is important. The visit of the Bishop underlines this. He is one of the successors of the apostles, given the same calling and responsibilities as the bishops first ordained by the apostles themselves.

### The solemn Mass

The Mass on a special occasion such as Confirmation is usually more solemn. The servers practise, perhaps the choir prepares some new music or singing, everyone is a little nervous, hoping that "everything will go well". You are also excited and you will be the centre of attention.

All of this is because when you receive the sacrament of Confirmation, it is such a very sacred moment. Our excitement and nerves should be directed to this. We want to be our best for the Holy Spirit who visits us.

### Not just the day itself ...

Remember that the gift of the Holy Spirit gives you a permanent mark or "seal" on your soul. You are forever a confirmed Christian with a mission to spread the gospel.

You may be called one day to do this by bringing up children of your own. You may be called to spread the gospel as a priest or a religious brother or sister. You may be called to a position of responsibility in the world or to one of the caring professions where you can serve Jesus Christ in others who are in need.

Whatever your path in life, you now have the gift and grace of the Holy Spirit to call on and the responsibility as an adult member of the Church to take your full part in the life of the Church.

## Traditional prayer

### Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Thanks be to you,

my Lord, Jesus Christ,

for all the benefits which you have given me, for all the pains and insults which you have borne for me.

O most merciful Redeemer,

friend and brother,

may I know you more clearly,

love you more dearly,

and follow you more nearly.

Amen.

# Preparing to be a Confirmed member of the body of Christ

## Practising for the ceremony

When the day of your Confirmation comes, you may be a bit nervous. The Church will be full and your relatives and friends will be there.

It will be a great help to you if you already know exactly what you have to do. We will help you by going over the responses and by having a rehearsal for all of you and extra rehearsals for the readers.

Today, we want to go through the responses that you will make. The idea is that these will become so familiar to you that on the day itself, you will be able to take part in the ceremony prayerfully without worrying.

### Renewal of Baptismal promises

Stand up straight and answer "I do" loudly and with feeling.

### Prayer to the Holy Spirit and imposition of hands

Bow your head and pray for the Holy Spirit to come into your heart and soul.

### Anointing

Come up to the Bishop. Hand your card to Father. Kneel down and say your Confirmation name loudly. Answer clearly as follows:

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <i>Archbishop</i>      | N. be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. |
| <i>Newly-Confirmed</i> | <b>Amen.</b>                                   |
| <i>Archbishop</i>      | Peace be with you.                             |
| <i>Newly-Confirmed</i> | <b>And also with you.</b>                      |

## Scripture

In your bible, look up St Matthew's gospel, chapter 18, verses 16-20. The disciples worshipped Jesus but some doubted. Why do you think they doubted? Later they all had a very strong faith. What event was the turning-point?

Jesus told them to make disciples of all the nations. We have the same task today. List some ways in which you can help to make disciples for Jesus.

## Some things to remember

- You will be asked to arrive early (by 10am) for the Mass. Do make sure of this. There is nothing more nerve-wracking than arriving late. It is also very embarrassing for you, for Father and for the Bishop. Be ready in good time.
- Do not worry unduly about what you will have to do. Father will always be ready to call you up or direct you when you need to do anything. Concentrate on keeping a calm and peaceful frame of mind so that you can pray during the ceremony: and don't forget to answer up with a loud voice

**"I DO!"**

- Prepare well to make a good Holy Communion on the day. Make it an occasion of thanksgiving for the sacrament of Confirmation you have just received.
- Enjoy the day. It should be a really happy occasion for you and for your whole family.
- Remember what Bishop Henderson says: Do not say I "was" confirmed but I *am* a Confirmed Catholic.

## And finally...

I write to you, children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young people, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

1 John 2:1