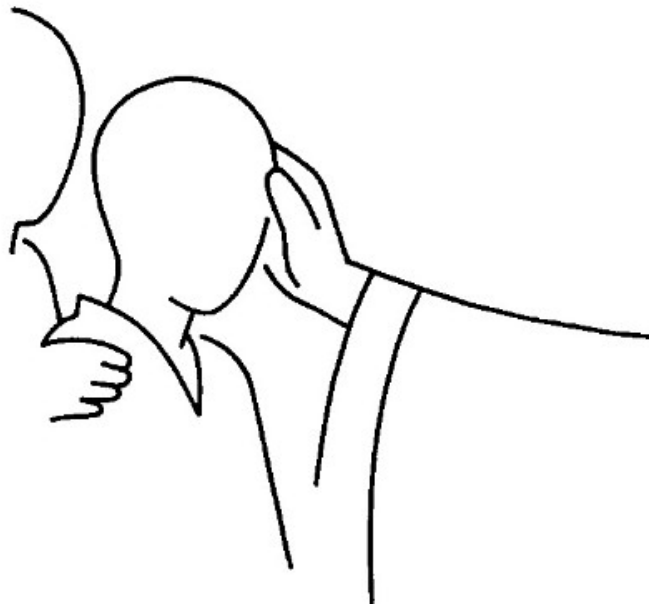




The Diocese of Motherwell

The Sacrament of Confirmation



# Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation

The Order of Confirmation &  
Guidance Notes for 2020/2021

## Introduction

These guidance notes are offered to assist in preparing for celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please also pay attention to the letter from the Bishop regarding Confirmations in the academic year 2020/2021

In the pages that follow you will find 'The Order for the Conferral of Confirmation Within Mass' followed by 'Guidance Notes for Confirmation' for preparing the Confirmation Liturgy.

We clearly live in strange times, so these Guidance notes are the standard notes for Confirmation in normal times; at the end you will find further guidance to be followed during these times of Covid-19.

Should you have any questions or would like advice regarding the liturgy for the Sacrament of Confirmation please contact Fr Kenneth O'Brien, Diocesan Master of Ceremonies, at St. Joseph's, Cardowan, on 0141 779 2001 or by email [frkobrien@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:frkobrien@rcdom.org.uk); or alternatively contact the Assistant Master of Ceremonies, Father John Paul McShane at St. Mary's, Lanark, on 01555 662234 or by email [frmcshane@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:frmcshane@rcdom.org.uk).

If you wish more information or clarity regarding any Covid-19 restrictions please contact Deacon Bill McMillan on [deaconmcmillan@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:deaconmcmillan@rcdom.org.uk) .

# The Order for the Conferral of Confirmation within Mass

## The Liturgy of the Word Homily

### Renewal of Baptismal Promises

*After the homily the Bishop questions those to be confirmed, who stand, as he says:*

Do you renounce Satan,  
and all his works and empty promises?  
*Together, all those to be confirmed reply:* I do.

*Bishop:*

Do you believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth?  
*Those to be confirmed:* I do.

*Bishop:*

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered death and was buried,  
rose again from the dead  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?  
*Those to be confirmed:* I do.

*Bishop:*

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who today through the Sacrament of Confirmation  
is given to you in a special way  
just as he was given to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost?  
*Those to be confirmed:* 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?  
*Those to be confirmed:* I do.  
*The Bishop gives his assent to the profession  
by proclaiming the faith of the Church:*

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.  
We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
*The gathering of the faithful gives its assent by replying:* Amen.

## **The Laying on of Hands**

*Then the Bishop standing, facing the people, with hands joined, says:*  
Dearly beloved,  
let us pray to God the almighty Father,  
for these, his adopted sons and daughters,  
already born again to eternal life in Baptism,  
that he will graciously pour out the Holy Spirit upon them  
to confirm them with his abundant gifts,  
and through his anointing  
conform them more fully to Christ, the Son of God.

*And all pray in silence for a while.*

*Then the Bishop lays hands over all those to be confirmed (as do the Priests who are associated with him). But the Bishop alone says:*  
Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who brought these your servants to new birth  
by water and the Holy Spirit,  
freeing them from sin:  
send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete;  
give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and fortitude,  
the spirit of knowledge and piety;  
fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## **The Anointing with Chrism**

*The sponsor who presents the person to be confirmed places his (her) right hand on his (her) shoulder the Master of Ceremonies will read the Confirmation name to the bishop displayed on the badge worn by the candidate.*

*The Bishop dips his right thumb into the Chrism and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed saying:*

**N.**, be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

*The newly confirmed replies:* Amen.

*The Bishop adds:*

Peace be with you.

*The newly confirmed:* And with your spirit.

## **The Universal Prayer**

*The Universal Prayer follows in this or a similar form.*

*Bishop:*

My dear brothers and sisters,  
let us humbly pray to God the almighty Father  
and be of one mind in our prayer,  
just as faith, hope and charity,  
which proceed from his Holy Spirit, are one.

*Deacon or reader:*

For these his servants,  
whom the gift of the Holy Spirit has confirmed:  
that, planted in faith and grounded in love,  
they may bear witness to Christ the Lord by their way of life,  
let us pray to the Lord.

*R.* Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

*Deacon or reader:*

For their parents and sponsors:  
that by word and example  
they may continue to encourage  
those whom they have sponsored in the faith  
to follow in the footsteps of Christ,  
let us pray to the Lord.

*R.* Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

*Deacon or reader:*

For the holy Church of God  
together with **N.** our Pope, **N.** our Bishop and all the Bishops:  
that, gathered by the Holy Spirit,  
the Church may grow and increase in unity of faith and love  
until the coming of the Lord,  
let us pray to the Lord.

*R.* Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

*Deacon or reader:*

For the whole world:  
that all people, who have one Maker and Father,  
may acknowledge one another as brothers and sisters,  
without discrimination of race or nation,  
and with sincere hearts seek the Kingdom of God,  
which is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,  
let us pray to the Lord.

*R.* Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

*Bishop:*

O God, who gave the Holy Spirit to your Apostles  
and willed that through them and their successors  
the same Spirit be handed on to the rest of the faithful,  
listen favourably to our prayer,  
and grant that your divine grace,  
which was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed,  
may now spread through the hearts of those who believe in you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*R.* Amen.

## **Guidance Notes**

The following guidelines consider the different aspects of the Sacrament of Confirmation and provide some assistance on preparing the Liturgy: Choosing a Mass, Music, The Liturgy of the Word, the Rite of Confirmation and Request of the Sacrament, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

### **Confirmation Name**

The Bishop encourages boys to choose a male Saint and girls a female Saint for their Confirmation name and to reflect how those saints used the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and lived the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

### **Liturgical Ministries**

The Bishop stresses that the young people are present at the Confirmation Mass to receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament, so attention should be drawn to the Rite itself and what is happening to them rather than them having to perform other ministries and roles during the Mass.

The celebration of Confirmation is a parish celebration and it is appropriate to include family members and members of the wider parish and school communities in fulfilling the various liturgical ministries that are required.

### **Choosing the Mass**

The Mass is usually the Ritual Mass of Confirmation from the Missal with readings as directed by the Bishop and Mass celebrated with red vestments.

On Memorials and Feasts, a decision can be made to use the prayers of that celebration or from the Rite of Confirmation. When Confirmation is celebrated on a Solemnity, then the prayers and readings of the solemnity are used.

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

The Bishop will advise parishes of his choice of readings for the celebration of Confirmation. The best practice is for the chosen readings to be read from the Lectionary during the celebration of Mass.

When choosing a Responsorial Psalm to sing it should be the words of a psalm or canticle and not just a hymn and is usually better sung by a cantor. A list of recommended psalms for Confirmation will be provided and forwarded to you over the coming weeks as well as access to a recording of these to help you with your preparations. Please note this will not be an exhaustive list, if you have any doubt please contact one of the MC's they will be more than happy to help.

## **The Rite of Confirmation - Request of the Sacrament**

In previous years some schools made a request for the Sacrament after the Gospel. Firstly it should be noted that this request for the Sacrament is totally optional. If you choose this option, the Request will take place at the start of mass, after the sign of the cross and the "Peace be with you" from the Bishop. The request if you opt to have one should be kept simple and last no more than 3 or 4 minutes. As in previous years this should not be a production or a theatrical presentation; but a public witness of the experiences and insights gained by the children during the program of preparation.

A number of parishes and schools have adopted a calling or presentation of the candidates for Confirmation. If this is to be done, it would replace the request, at the start of mass.

## **The Sacrament of Confirmation**

Following the homily the candles held by the confirmandi for the renewal of baptismal promises are lit from the paschal candle. The paschal candle should be placed near the Ambo.

*Following the renewal of baptismal promises all the candidates remain standing for the laying on of hands and the prayer of Confirmation. At the end of the prayer of Confirmation, candles are extinguished and the confirmandi sit before coming forward for the anointing.*

For the Anointing with Chrism the sponsor and the candidate approach the Bishop and stand in front of and close to him with the sponsor's right hand on the candidate's right shoulder. After the anointing the celebrant exchanges the sign of peace with the candidate as at Mass.

The candidates should wear a badge with his/her confirmation name printed clearly for the Master of Ceremonies to read.

## **Responses**

The Bishop asks that you emphasise to the confirmandi the importance of the responses during the anointing, which are often the weakest responses as they are made individually. The anointing involves two very simple but important responses of 'Amen' and 'And with your Spirit'. The 'Amen' expresses our affirmation of the content of the prayer and so is an important response not only at Confirmation but also at communion and the end of prayers. The 'And with your spirit' invites and recognises the grace and presence of Christ in the celebrant of the sacrament.



## **Universal Prayer**

The text of the intercessions is variable although the following principles should always be used in their formulation. The text provided in 'The Order for the Conferral of Confirmation within Mass' may also be used.

- a. General Intercessions are invitations to pray, praying which is done by the congregation in silence.
- b. Therefore, the reader first announces the intention; e.g. For the Leaders of the Church. This establishes who or what is to be the object of our prayer.
- c. After a brief pause, the reader then expresses what precisely we are going to pray for in the intention, e.g. in the case of our Church Leaders – that they will be guided by the Holy Spirit in their leadership of the Church.
- d. At this point there should be a pause. This is the time for the congregation to pray.
- e. The reader after the pause then concludes the intention by saying 'Lord hear us', or another option familiar to the parish.

The order of intercessions should be: for the Church, for spiritual and civic leaders, for the world, for particular occasions (e.g. confirmation), other local needs and for those who have died. It is not essential to have a prayer for every category. The reader should remain at the Lectern until the celebrant has said the concluding prayer.

## **The Preparation of the Gifts**

In considering the Procession of Gifts the following advice from the General Instruction of the Roman Missal is helpful:

*"It is a praiseworthy practice for the bread and wine to be presented by the faithful. They are then accepted at an appropriate place by the Celebrant to be carried to the altar. Even though the faithful no longer bring from their own possessions the bread and wine intended for the liturgy as was once the case, nevertheless the rite of carrying up the offerings still keeps its spiritual efficacy and significance. Even money or other gifts for the poor or for the Church, brought by the faithful or collected in the church, are acceptable; given their purpose they are to be put in a suitable place away from the Eucharistic table."*  
(General Instruction of the Roman Missal no. 73)

## **Music at the Confirmation Mass**

These notes on choosing Music for the Sacrament of Confirmation may be helpful to those preparing music for the celebration.

Most of the hymns and parts of the mass should be familiar to the parish to enable those present to join in the singing. If the school is choosing music it is best done in consultation with the parish clergy and musicians to ensure as many people as possible are familiar with what will be sung.

The singing of hymns during Mass is for the praise and glory of God and not the entertainment of the congregation, therefore *if the children are to sing on their own at any point it should be done from their seats and not the steps of the sanctuary, they should also face the Altar for this and not the congregation.* All music should be of a religious nature.

Music should always be chosen in keeping with the Liturgical Season or Feast and the Sacrament of Confirmation. During the season of Lent nothing should be said or sung containing Alleluia.

For the celebration of confirmation the Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, Holy Holy, Memorial Acclamation and the Lamb of God should be sung. During Lent, an appropriate Lenten Gospel Acclamation should be used that does not include 'Alleluia!'.

The following are normally sung, Entrance Hymn, Hymns during the anointing (which should have a Holy Spirit or Confirmation theme), Hymn during the procession of gifts, communion hymns (these should have a Eucharist theme and not be hymns to the Saints or the Blessed Virgin Mary), and Recessional Hymn. It is also possible to sing the Gloria, the Penitential Rite, and the Our Father. During Lent the Gloria is only sung on the feasts of Saints John Ogilvie, Patrick and Joseph and the Solemnity of the Annunciation.

## **Musicians**

We understand that there is a variety of talent and ability when it comes to parish and school music. We have a list of musicians that are willing to lend a hand for your Confirmation mass, if this is required. Good music does lead to good singing and also a better celebration, if you need assistance please contact one of our MC's who will be happy to help.

## The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

**Wisdom** is the gift of knowing the right choices to make to live a holy life. The gift of wisdom helps you to avoid the things that could lead you away from God.

**Understanding** is the gift of comprehension, or the ability to grasp the meaning of the teachings of the Church. The gift of understanding helps you be tolerant and sympathetic of others. It helps you sense when someone is hurting or in need of compassion.

**Counsel**, is the gift of prudence. The gift of Counsel helps you make choices to live as a faithful follower of Jesus.

**Fortitude**, is the gift that helps you stand up for your faith in Christ. The gift of fortitude helps you overcome any obstacles that would keep you from practicing your faith.

**Knowledge** is the gift of knowing and enlightenment. The gift of knowledge enables you to choose the right path that will lead you to God. It encourages you to avoid obstacles that will keep you from him.

**Piety**, is the gift of confidence in God. This gift of piety inspires you to joyfully want to serve God and others.

**Fear of the Lord** is the gift that encourages you to be in awe of God. The gift moves you to so love God that you do not want to offend him by your words or actions.

## **APPENDIX A, Further guidance during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Clearly during this period of the Global Pandemic, the guidelines above will have to be adapted to follow the government regulations and the guidance from the church authorities. It should be noted that these can change at short notice and must always be followed. The Diocese will also keep under review these guidelines and how they relate to the government regulations and will be in touch should there be further changes and adaptations.

### **Dates for Confirmation and who can Confirm**

The Diocesan Office has sent out a list of Confirmation Dates for each school that the Bishop will celebrate. Clearly in some cases due to numbers the Bishop will delegate Parish Priests to celebrate some of the Confirmations at a separate point. Parish Priests are asked to speak with the Bishop directly if this affects their Confirmations so that delegation can be arranged and the Bishop can be aware of the bigger picture across the Diocese.

### **Those who can attend**

With regards who can attend the Confirmation, the guidance given is that each candidate may bring 2 others to the Confirmation and these must be from the same household as the candidate so that they can all sit together. The total number able to celebrate the Sacrament will vary from church to church depending on the particular social distance requirements for each church. If the Church can hold 50 with the appropriate 2-metre distancing, then the maximum number of candidates for Confirmation will be 16. Please note the Bishop, Priests, Deacons, MC and Parish Covid Stewards do not count towards the number if they can keep their distance, but everyone else does, including teachers and musicians.

### **Sponsor**

The Rite of Confirmation allows a parent to present a child for confirmation, therefore with this in mind it allows one of the 2 people accompanying the candidate to present the child to the Bishop for Confirmation, even if this person is a parent.

### **Anointing and Communion**

To keep movement limited in the church the only time there should be movement is for the candidate and the person presenting them to come forward for the anointing. To limit movement, it is probably best that the Parish Priest distribute communion in the way that has become the norm in that parish during these restrictions.

### **Candles**

Candles will not be used during Confirmation this year.

**Sign of Peace**

After the anointing, the usual handshake as a sign of peace will be replaced by a simple bow of the head by the newly confirmed and the bishop.

**Music**

Music can be provided with a musician and a cantor singing from behind a screen and a good distance away from the congregation.

**Procession of Gifts**

Due to current restrictions this will not take place.

**Readers**

A single adult reader may proclaim the scripture readings and the intercessions.

**Request for the Sacrament**

Given restrictions there will be no request for the sacrament or votes of thanks from the school community.

**Masks**

Masks must be worn by all while within the church. For the anointing we would ask that even those who are exempt from wearing a mask consider wearing one for the very brief period that the anointing takes to keep everyone safe.