

THE CONFIRMATION CEREMONY.

The Confirmation Ceremony takes place within Mass, after the Homily it has three parts:

- ◆ The Laying on of Hands,
- ◆ The Anointing with Chrism - Holy Oil
- ◆ "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit."



THE LAYING ON OF HANDS: The Bishop or priest holds their arms out over those to be confirmed while he prays quietly to the Holy Spirit. Jesus used this gesture when he healed people and at other times in the bible.

ANOINTING WITH CHRISM: The church uses oil to anoint people as a sign of strengthening, but also by way of acknowledging the specialness of the person. In the time of Jesus only Royalty, Prophets and Priests were anointed. This is what the church does when it uses oil at Confirmation.

"BE SEALED WITH GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT"
We choose a new name to symbolise that something new has begun in us and in our lives. When the person comes forward to be anointed they are called by this new name and the Bishop/Priest says to them: "Be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit."

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISM PROMISES:

When we were Baptised, if we were baptised as children, our Parents and God Parents made promises on our behalf. At the

Confirmation those who are seeking to be confirmed will be asked to make those same promises for themselves. This symbolizes the transition from a childhood faith to an adult faith, taking responsibility for my own faith life, relationship with God and Church.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

If you would like help in preparing for Confirmation, either for yourself or a member of your family, please do not hesitate in contacting any member of the Parish Team, our contact details are available from the Parish Website: www.parishofathy.ie

Resources for Confirmation are available on the parish website.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and always rejoice in His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



What is it?
What happens?
How can I prepare?

A guide to understanding
the Sacrament
of
Confirmation.

WHAT IS IT?

Confirmation is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation -

- ◆ **Baptism,**
- ◆ **Eucharist (Holy Communion)**
- ◆ **Confirmation**

by which we become members of the Church.

Confirmation completes and 'confirms' what was begun in Baptism and carried on in First Holy Communion.

Confirmation is a sacrament of choice. Even if you have been Baptised and received Holy Communion you do not have to be Confirmed.

By choosing confirmation you are saying 'YES' to God and to being an active member of the Church.

Confirmation is the beginnings of a mature, adult relationship with God and the Church.

WHAT HAPPENS AT CONFIRMATION?

God has given us a helper to enable us to live in close relationship with God, we call this helper the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit comes we are given gifts or tools to help live out this relationship - The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are:

- ◆ **Wisdom**
- ◆ **Understanding**
- ◆ **Right Judgement**
- ◆ **Courage**
- ◆ **Reverence**
- ◆ **Knowledge**
- ◆ **Wonder and Awe (in God's Presence)**



These gifts are given to us by God to:

- ◆ help us in our daily lives to make right choices
- ◆ give us what we need to play an active role in the Church and in building up the Kingdom of God
- ◆ become a mature Christian, taking responsibility for my own faith and my relationship with God.

FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- ◆ **Love**
- ◆ **Joy**
- ◆ **Peace**
- ◆ **Patience**
- ◆ **Kindness**
- ◆ **Goodness**
- ◆ **Gentleness**
- ◆ **Faithfulness**
- ◆ **Self Control**

are the visible signs or evidence that someone is living their life inspired by Jesus and the Holy Spirit.



HOW CAN I PREPARE?

Preparation for Confirmation has many parts. For those who are being confirmed through their school there is:

- ◆ The preparation undertaken by teachers and religious instruction.
- ◆ The Parish Preparation Programme - which includes: Completion of a Commitment Certificate promising to prepare as best as you are able, Commitment Ceremony, Visits to school by members of the parish team.
- ◆ Regular school visits to church for mass etc..

- ◆ Ceremony of Light (*usually about 10 days prior to Confirmation*)

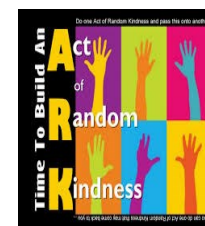
For those who are not being confirmed as part of school.

- ◆ A commitment to daily personal prayer
- ◆ Putting one's gifts and talents at the service of the community.
- ◆ Attending preparation session(s) with members of the Parish Team

For all of those seeking Confirmation regular attendance at Sunday Mass is expected.

PRAYER is an essential part of preparation

- ◆ Try to get to know Jesus better, take a few minutes each day for you and Jesus to be alone and talk to him in your own words, then take some time to be silent and listen - this is prayer.
- ◆ Read the Gospel story from Sunday mass and think about how the message might relate to your life



Perform **ACTS OF RANDOM KINDNESS**;

- ◆ make a cup of tea or coffee for someone
- ◆ smile more, especially at strangers.
- ◆ be more respectful and considerate of others,
- ◆ leave a note for someone telling them they are awesome
- ◆ be creative and imaginative in the ways you are kind to people.

A faith that is not active in small ways everyday will soon fade away.