

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Confirming what?



SESSION for PARENTS
on the Completion of Initiation

Another step on the journey of faith

This year the focus of catechesis for your child will be on the Completion of Initiation. Your child will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation and receive Holy Communion for the first time.

WE PRAY TOGETHER:

Come Holy Spirit
Fill our hearts with the fire of your love.

Give us the gift of wisdom to see the world as God sees it.
Give us understanding to see the world with the eyes of faith.

Give us right judgement so that we can choose to live like Jesus.
Give us courage to uphold the Gospel values of Jesus.

Give us knowledge to see beyond the surface to know you are
with us.

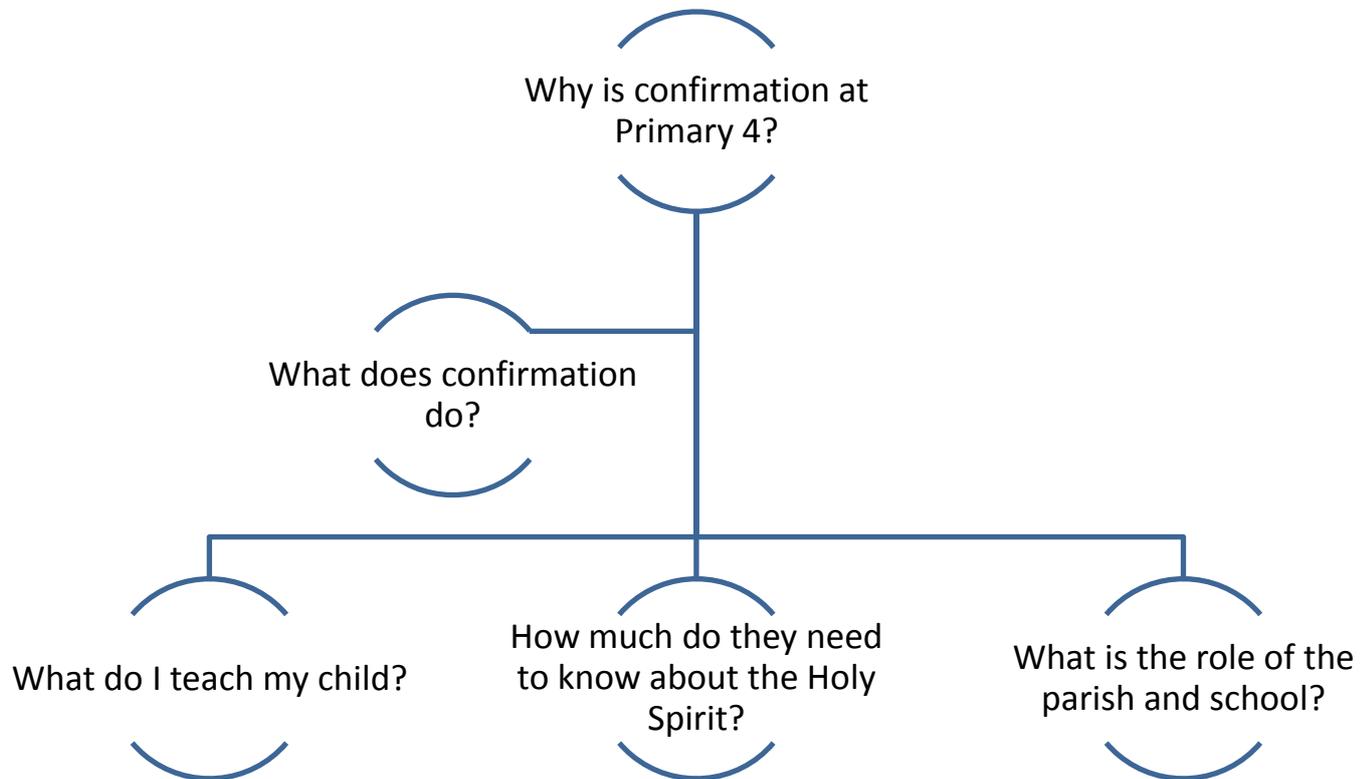
Give us reverence to see your image in all people.
Give us the gift of wonder and awe in your holy presence.

Giver of all God's gifts
walk with us on our journey of faith
as we encourage our children to walk in your presence.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.



Parent Questions

Here are some questions that Parents have asked about this year



1) How are the questions above similar to your own?

2) With the person beside you share any questions you have.....



Signs of Readiness

Does your child sometimes

- Speak about Jesus as a friend?
- Want to be helpful and kind to others?
- Try to listen to advice from others?
- Realise that God is our Father and Jesus is God's Son?
- Talk about being a son or daughter of God?
- Have moments of wonder and awe?
- Act with courage?
- Want to know more about deep things like suffering?
- Treat others with respect and gentleness?
- Show when they are joyful?
- Value goodness in themselves and others?
- Show love to family and friends?
- Exhibit a desire to deepen their love of Jesus?

If you see signs of this in your child's life then they are probably ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation which strengthens the gifts God gives us in Baptism.



Your Memories



Can you remember when you made your confirmation?

What kind of preparation took place?

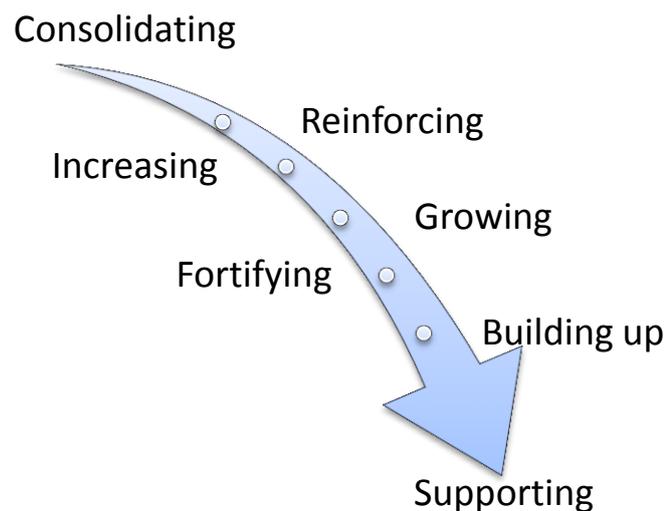
What do you remember about the experience that was good?

How do you feel about this sacrament now in adulthood?

Confirmation?

This comes from the Latin *Confirmatio*, which means strengthening.

Here are more words connecting to the effect of this sacrament in our lives:



the gift of God's love and life received in baptism



Gifts of the Spirit

received at baptism ~ strengthened in confirmation

We do not suddenly receive God's gift of the Spirit at confirmation. In baptism the Spirit is poured into our hearts so that we are able to connect to a sense of God's presence and action in our lives. The presence of God's Spirit in our lives is manifested in a variety of gifts which enable us, no matter what our age, to tune into this sense of God:



WISDOM This helps us to see things from God's point of view with compassion so that we make good decisions about how we treat others and the priorities in our lives.

UNDERSTANDING With this gift we see the world through the eyes of faith, where each person is a reflection of God's image. This encourages us to build a better world where all are treated fairly and equally.

RIGHT JUDGEMENT This gives us the ability to discern what is the right thing to do, and to act like Jesus in the choices we make.

COURAGE Being a person of faith means we must be brave and uphold the Gospel values of Jesus. The Spirit gives us the strength to stand up and be counted and to live our faith without fear.

KNOWLEDGE This gift helps us to notice God's presence in all things, in the people around us and the world we live, The Spirit gives us insight, an inside knowledge that helps us recognise when God is around.

REVERENCE This helps us to honour, respect and give thanks and praise to God and to grow in awareness of his presence. As we grow in awareness of the holiness of God we also become more conscious of the need to treat all people with respect.

WONDER and AWE This gift makes us aware of God's presence drawing us to worship and praise, helping us to see the reflection of God's glory within and without, moving us to adore.

REFLECT:

- 1) Which of the Gifts of the Spirit do you need most in your life at this time?
- 2) How might you help your child to activate these Gifts in their own life?

Confirmed to live like Jesus



At confirmation we are once more invited to remember that Baptism calls us to live like Jesus. Jesus used the gifts of the Spirit in his life to bring the Good News of God's love to the people he met.

- He taught in parables and preached with **WISDOM**
- He showed **UNDERSTANDING** to those who were poor and sick
- He used **RIGHT JUDGEMENT** when the Pharisees tried to trick him
- He faced his own suffering and journey to Jerusalem with **COURAGE**
- He prayed constantly to **KNOW** God's will
- He always showed **REVERENCE** to God and to human beings
- He was filled with **WONDER** and **AWE** at all God created

At Confirmation we pray that the Spirit who directed and guided Jesus in his life will also direct and guide our children:

*Send your Holy Spirit to be their 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*



FRUITS of the SPIRIT

When we live out our baptism and live consciously aware of our connection with God's Spirit then this bears fruit in us.

St. Paul speaks of this in the letter to the Galatians 5: 22-23 where he points to visible signs that we are living a Christian life - a life in the Spirit.

In other words when we are living in the Spirit of Jesus people can notice the effects of this relationship in us by the way we live and act.

LOVE - This is self-giving love that gives freely without asking anything in return

JOY - The Greek word for 'joy' is *chara*, derived from the word *charis*, which is the Greek word for 'grace.' This is deep inner happiness in all circumstances.

PEACE – Peace is the result of resting in a relationship with God. Rather than allowing the difficulties and pressures of life to break us, a person who is possessed by peace is *whole, complete, orderly, stable, and poised for blessing*

PATIENCE - This is about constancy, perseverance, continuance, bearing up, steadfastness, holding out, endurance when things are difficult.

GENTLENESS - Also called meekness, a gentle person is even-tempered, tranquil, balanced in spirit, unpretentious.

KINDNESS - Kindness is goodness in action, sweetness of disposition, gentleness in dealing with others, benevolence, kindness, affability.

GOODNESS - The state or quality of being good shows itself in generosity towards others, having good will towards all.

FAITHFULNESS - Faithfulness is committing oneself to something or someone, keeping promises, being someone who is reliable.

SELF-CONTROL – A person who has self-control has command or "mastery over" or possession of, their own behavior.

- 1) How are you aware of these fruits in your own life?
- 2) Where do you see signs of these fruits growing in your child?

Teach your child

- 1) That God's Spirit is in our hearts
- 2) The Holy Spirit helps us to live like Jesus
- 3) The Holy Spirit unites us with God's by love
- 4) The Holy Spirit helps us to keep our friendship with God by prayer
- 5) Confirmation strengthens us
- 6) We are anointed like Jesus at Confirmation to love and serve others
- 7) The Gifts of the Spirit helps us love others
- 8) The Fruits of the Spirit help others to see God's life in us
- 9) The Holy Spirit is always with us to guide us and help us
- 10) To ask for the help of the Holy Spirit in their lives



The Rite of Confirmation



Anointed for service.....in Peace of God

The Rite of Confirmation is very simple. At the Mass of Confirmation children are invited to confirm their YES to all that we believe by renewing their baptismal commitment.

Then the Sacrament of Confirmation is conferred through anointing the forehead with Chrism and with the laying on of hands where the following words are said:



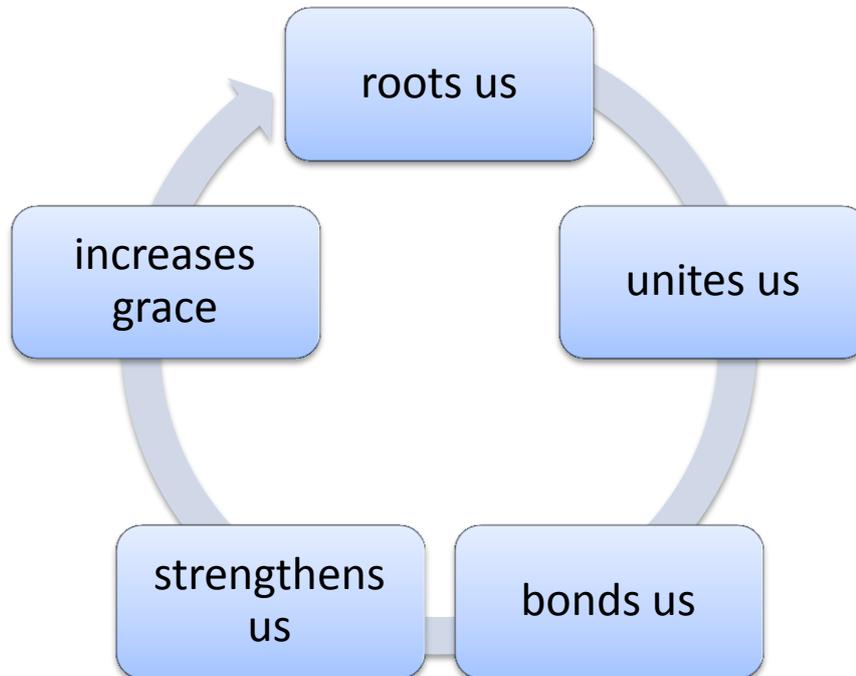
**BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT
of THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Then this concludes with the Sign of Peace, where the priest says: Peace Be with You. This signifies that the candidate is now more closely united to the Bishop and all in the Church who believe in Jesus

Full Outpouring of the Spirit

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1302 - 1303

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes Confirmation as a full outpouring of the Spirit giving us confidence to not only share our faith but stand up for our faith, to witness to the love of God in us.



TO GOD IN THE CHURCH THROUGH CHRIST

St Ambrose spoke to those who had just completed their initiation, these words could be addressed to parents and children as they celebrate this great sacrament:

Guard what you have received.

God the Father has marked you with his sign;

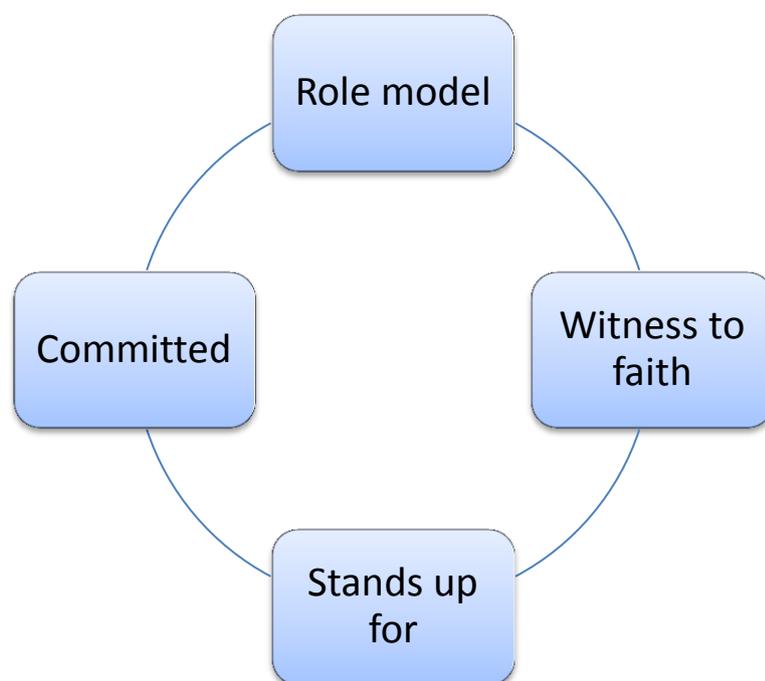
Christ the Lord has confirmed you and

has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts.

SPONSORS

If you look back at the New Testament you will see that there was a custom of providing those who were to be baptised with sponsors: these were men and women who were already living the Christian way of life who could provide a living faith witness to the new comer.

Sponsors today can be a person who has responsibility for promotion, this happens in big companies where sponsorship deals are made to pay for all or part of an event. At Confirmation children choose a sponsor, this is an important role of accompaniment. Here are some of things a sponsor does:



To emphasize the unity between baptism and confirmation ideally the sponsor can be one of the baptismal godparents.

Essentially this person needs to be a practicing Catholic, one who will be a role model for your child, who witnesses to their faith by service and prayer, who is committed to their own journey of faith and will stand alongside your child in a supportive nurturing role.

- 1) How can you encourage your child to choose their sponsor wisely?
- 2) Who comes to mind for you who could fulfil this important role in your child's life?

SAINTS - People who fully responded

At Confirmation children are encouraged to pick a Confirmation name linked to a Saint.

Saints are inspiring figures, people who followed Jesus and didn't count the cost, people who fully responded to their baptism by reaching out in service in all sorts of different ways.

The taking of a saint's name is a symbol of how your child is capable of making a Christian commitment in their own right.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The name is not as important as the inspiration that the Saints themselves give us. So a Confirmation saint should be chosen whose life provides a vibrant example of Christian living, this is why it is also important that your child knows something about this saint. This saint is someone to imitate, someone who will be a companion to your child throughout the whole period of their journey of faith. Praying to the saint can be added to your child's night prayer.

The saint chosen can be male or female, what matters most is how they inspire your child to respond generously to the call of Christ.

SOME SAINTS TO INSPIRE!

St. Andrew – Apostle and follower of Jesus

St. Brendan – The Navigator

St. Bernadette – connected with Lourdes and healing

St. Benedict – Patron of Europe

St. Gemma – Patron of Young People

St. Margaret – Wife and Queen

St. Francis – Serving the Poor

St. Teresa – Great Reformer

- 1) What saints inspire you?
- 2) How can you help your child to choose their Confirmation saint?

God's Spirit is in my heart



Today, more than ever, our children need
the strength of the Holy Spirit
to guide them on their way.

He sends them as messengers of Good News
into a world in need of God's word.

He calls them and sets them apart to witness
to his love in their lives.

He strengthens them to stand up for their faith in Jesus
and to walk in God's presence.

He anoints them for service,
as priests, prophets and kings.

He inspires them to lead lives of holy goodness.

PARENTS PRAYER:

Breathe in us, O Holy Spirit, that our thoughts may all be holy.

Act in us, O Holy Spirit, that our work, too, may be holy.

Draw our hearts, O Holy Spirit, that we may love what is holy.

Strengthen us, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.

Guard us, then, O Holy Spirit, that we always may be holy.

RESOURCES

Catechism of the Catholic Church -Part One: Section Two Chapter Three
– I believe in the Holy Spirit

Catechism of the Catholic Church – Part Two: Section Two Chapter One
Article Two – The Sacrament of Confirmation

www.slideshare.net/pcuadra/sacrament-of-confirmation

SAINTS and PATRONS www.cts-online.org.uk/acatalog/info_B747.html

CONFIRMATION an EXPLANATION www.cts-online.org.uk/acatalog/info_DO713.html

WHY BE CONFIRMED www.cts-online.org.uk/acatalog/info_DO704.html

SYMBOLS of the HOLY SPIRIT www.cts-online.org.uk/acatalog/info_D744.html

SEVEN GIFTS of the HOLY SPIRIT www.cts-online.org.uk/acatalog/info_SP27.html

PRAYING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT www.cts-online.org.uk/acatalog/info_CH15.html