

DIOCESE OF SANDHURST

CONFIRMATION AND EUCHARIST GUIDE



The Bishop:

- The Bishop will bring his own vestments. The Mass will be that of Confirmation with red vestments except when the Ordo specifies a particular Mass.
- The Bishop will use his Miter and Crozier and bring his own oil stock. Please provide lemon or soapy water for washing off the oil.
- The Bishop will sit for Confirmation and the candidate kneels. He will tap the candidate on the cheek and also shake his/her hand. He does not usually ask them any questions.
- In situations where there are no altar servers, the Bishop can manage.
- The Bishop welcomes the opportunity, where possible, of celebrating other Masses whilst in the parish.
- During the ceremony please refer to the Bishop as Bishop Leslie, but personally as Bishop Les.
- The Bishop is pleased to have the opportunity to meet parishioners and families of the candidates after Mass outside the church, or at refreshments that may be offered by the parish.

The Mass:

- The Gloria is used, except in Lent and Advent, but the renewal of Baptismal promises replaces the Creed.
- The Parish Priest proclaims the Gospel and the Bishop gives the homily, which comes after the candidates have been presented for Confirmation.
- It is important that the Word of God is proclaimed well, thus consideration should be given as to whether it is better to have teachers or the parents of the candidates read, rather than the children.
- The Bishop encourages singing, even parts of the Mass.
- Please include the words for all hymns in the copy of the booklet for the Bishop and Parish Priest.
- Hymns chosen should be familiar to all parishioners and all are encouraged to sing.
- The Bishop extends his hands over the candidates generally, unless it is a small number of candidates where imposition of hands on individual candidates may be possible.
- Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful should include the needs of the universal Church, the world, national and local needs. The gifts of the Holy Spirit might be used to provide a focus in formulating these prayers.
- Each candidate is to have a Catholic sponsor who stands behind the candidate with their right hand on the right shoulder for the anointing. A godparent of the candidate might be an appropriate choice. Parents, because of their unique relationship with the candidate, would not be an appropriate sponsor.
- Reception of the Eucharist under both Species is a decision of the parish.
- If certificates are to be presented by the Bishop, this takes place at the conclusion of Mass.

Choosing Readings:

- In Ordinary Time alternative Readings may be chosen from the Masses of Confirmation / Eucharist.
- If a Feast Day, then the Readings of the Feast OR if Lent or Easter Season, the Readings of the day prevail (if in doubt, check the Ordo).

General Information:

- Email or send a hard copy of the ceremony to Margaret Watson at the Chancery well before the required date, and have an A4 hard copy ready for the Parish Priest on the day.
- The tradition of choosing a saint as patron at Confirmation is strongly encouraged as researching the saint can deepen the appreciation of virtue and offers the opportunity of forming a spiritual relationship with the saint through prayer.
- Group photos could be taken before Mass and, time permitting, the Bishop will be available for individual photos after Mass.

Any other queries:

Please contact Margaret Watson, the Bishop's secretary – Chancery 5441 2544.

THE CEREMONY

Penitential Rite:

Invocations can be based on the Readings, but must be focussed on the mercy of God NOT on the failings of the congregation OR No VI from Penitential Acts Page 1531 of the Roman Missal (See Attachment 1).

Collect (or Opening Prayer)

The Collect is that of the Mass of the Day OR a Ritual Mass (page 1186) to be determined according to the requirements given under "Choosing Readings".

Conferral of Confirmation starts at Page 1186 of the Roman Missal (There are choices A, B, C, for the 'Proper Prayers' of the Mass E.g. Collect, Prayer over the Offerings (Gifts), and Prayer after Communion).

Others may be used from the Missal according to the requirements given above.

Rite of Confirmation

See Attachment 2.

Preface

Where there is not a proper Preface, the Bishop will use the Preface of the Holy Spirit on page 1406 or 1409 in the Roman Missal (see Attachment 3).

Eucharistic Prayer

Often Eucharistic Prayer 2 is appropriate. A special insert for the candidates can be found on page 1187.

Please note that the Eucharistic Prayer for Children is only used for children's Masses, eg school Masses. It is not used for a Confirmation Mass.

Solemn Blessing

A suitable choice is No 3 from Ordinary Time. (see Attachment 4) OR Roman Missal Page 1188 (From Conferral of Confirmation).

ATTACHMENT 1: PENITENTIAL RITE

Bishop: My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries, let us call to mind our sins.

Lord Jesus, you have revealed yourself as the way to the Father:

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Bishop: You have poured out on your people the Spirit of truth: Christ, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Bishop: You are the Good Shepherd, leading us to eternal life: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Bishop: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

All: **Amen**

ATTACHMENT 2:

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES:

Teacher: Bishop Leslie, I present to you the candidates from (Parish name here) for Confirmation and First Eucharist.

(Candidates stand as names are called)

Candidates sit when invited to do so by the Bishop.

HOMILY: Bishop

Bishop: Candidates please stand.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES:

Bishop: My dear children, you have spent time in preparation. Your parents, teachers and friends have helped you. You are here today/tonight to receive the Sacrament in which you will be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. This gift is wonderful and makes you strong and helps you to be and do, all that God asks of you in your life.

I invite you now to renew your baptismal promises here in the presence of God's Church with all who are gathered.

Bishop Leslie invites everyone to stand and renew their Baptismal Promises with the children.

Bishop: Do you reject Satan, and all his works and all his empty promises?

All: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

All: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

All: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who

came upon the Apostles at Pentecost and today is given to you sacramentally in Confirmation?

All: **I do.**

Bishop: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

All: **I do.**

Bishop: This is our faith, this is the faith of the Church, We are proud to profess it in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

Bishop: Would you all sit. Candidates please remain standing

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS:

Bishop: My dear friends: in baptism God our Father gave the new birth of eternal life to his chosen sons and daughters.

Let us pray to our Father that he will pour out the Holy Spirit to strengthen his sons and daughters with his gifts and anoint them to be more like Christ the son of God.

Bishop extends his hands over the candidates whilst saying:

All powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them 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. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

The Bishop sits in front of the altar, with miter, crozier and oil stock. Candidates come forward in the pre-arranged order for the individual anointing with Chrism.

ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

Bishop: "N..... be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit"

Candidate: Amen

Bishop: Peace be with you (Bishop shakes the candidates hand)

Candidate: And with your spirit.

Music during anointing.

Dish of lemon or soapy water and towel are brought to the Bishop.

This concludes the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Mass then resumes with the Prayer of the Faithful.

ATTACHMENT 3:

Preface of the Holy Spirit:

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit

Bishop: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Bishop: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you bestow gifts suited to every season and guide the governing of your Church
in wonderful ways.

By the power of the Holy Spirit you come unfailing to her aid, so that with a heart
always subject to you she may never fail to seek your help in time of trouble nor
cease to give you thanks in time of joy, through Christ our Lord.

And so, in company with the choirs of Angels, we praise you, and with joy we
proclaim:

All **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts**
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory
 Hosanna in the highest
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
 Hosanna in the highest.

Bishop: **Eucharistic Prayer**

ATTACHMENT 4:

Concluding rite:

SOLEMN BLESSING: Roman Missal Page 715 No 11 (Ordinary Time No 3)
Sample, (others can be chosen from this section).

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit**

Celebrant: Bow you heads for the Blessing, response after each one is Amen.

Ordinary Time III

Bishop: May Almighty God bless you in his kindness and pour out saving wisdom upon you.

All: Amen.

Bishop: May he nourish you always with the teachings of the faith and make you persevere in holy deeds.

All: Amen.

Bishop: May he turn your steps towards himself and show you the path of charity and peace.

All: Amen.

Bishop: And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All: Amen.

Dismissal: Roman Missal Page 708 (Sample No 1).

Bishop: Go forth, the Mass is ended.

All: Thanks be to God.

