



Pastoral Guidance  
for the Preparation and Celebration  
of the Sacrament of Confirmation

Guidelines, Procedures, Resources

Appendix 7 – Template 2  
Order for the Conferral of  
Confirmation within Mass

Normally Cover Page  
(Delete Current content)

# Normally Inside Cover Page

## Template Notes

This master template is offered for your assistance. It provides you with the general structure and formatting for the liturgy and much of the text. It is for you to adapt to suit your community.

These notes are to be deleted to make space for other things you wish to include on the inside cover.

This template:

- is for confirmation (and first communion) within Mass and presumes it is a Sunday liturgy;
- is a Master Copy template and therefore includes all the structure and elements of the liturgy and detailed rubrics that explain everything that is to happen;
- presumes there is no deacon. Adjustments will need to be made if there is a deacon present;
- presumes the Bishop is presiding. All references to the mitre and crozier, and the blessing of the minister (unless a Deacon) before the gospel need to be deleted if the VG or another priest is presiding.
- when viewed electronically, the styles listed at the top of the page are embedded into the template. Using these will make formatting easier. To amend a style, modify it in the list of styles and it will automatically be amended throughout the document.

Styles are listed as:

Lit Heading 1, 2 and 3

Lit Style 1 and 2, rubrics and copyright.

- **green text gives directions or explanations for you and should be deleted from your copy;**
- includes an Organisation Sheet at the end which may be of assistance. Adjust it to suit your needs.

Please consider the parish practice regarding 'Acknowledgement of Country' and include this ahead of the gathering hymn as appropriate.

When inserting liturgical texts please retain the sense lines. Also, please retain the spacing between elements. This helps the presider.

An optional element for our diocese is the simplified version of the 'Renewal of Baptismal Promises' (See Guideline no. 9) which is included in the appendix 2 of the diocesan *Guidelines for the Preparation of the Sacrament of Confirmation*.

See also the forms to be completed when sending confirmation liturgies to the Bishop's/liturgy office:

- *Confirmation Liturgy Advice Form*
- *Liturgy Outline 2* which may accompany the advice form in place of a Master Copy.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any of this, please contact the Diocesan Liturgy Co-ordinator as noted below.

With thanks,

Louise Gannon rsj

Diocesan Co-ordinator of Liturgy with the Diocesan Liturgy Council

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# The Introductory Rites

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## Gathering Hymn *Please stand*

*The Paschal candle is in position and lit.*

*When those to be confirmed are assembled with their sponsors and parents, and the whole gathering of the faithful, the gathering hymn begins and the liturgical procession moves to the sanctuary as follows: cross bearer, person carrying the Oil of Chrism, person carrying the Book of the Gospels with clergy following as usual.*

*Upon reaching the sanctuary, those carrying symbols move to stand in the designated place. The other ministers make the usual reverence to the altar and move to their position.*

*The bishop gives his mitre and crozier to the servers.*

*Insert words to hymn here.*

## Greeting

Bishop: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

Bishop: Peace be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

## Introduction

Under normal circumstances this is the opportunity for a brief introduction to the liturgy, either by the presider, or it could involve a welcome to the Bishop/VG from the community.

If however, in lieu of the bishop or vicar general, another priest has been delegated to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Letter of Delegation is read by the most appropriate leader in the parish. e.g. the parish priest if he is not the delegate, or if he is the delegate, the

letter might be read by the chair of the Parish Pastoral Council. In this circumstance the introductory comments and/or welcome would follow the reading of the Letter of Delegation.

Please add rubrics to indicate what is happening.

## **The Asperges – Rite for Sprinkling with Holy Water**

*The bishop moves to stand near the Baptismal Font. A server has the vessels to be filled with holy water.*

Bishop: Dear friends, we come together to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, an important step in the process of Christian Initiation.

May this baptismal water remind us of the promises we made at our baptism. As we use it in this sprinkling rite, let us, through the power of God's Spirit, be healed of our brokenness and renewed in faithfulness and love.

**OR**

Bishop: Dear friends, we come together to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation and our candidates first reception of communion, by which they will complete the process of Christian Initiation and become full members of the Catholic Church.

May this baptismal water remind us of the promises we made at our baptism. As we use it in this sprinkling rite, let us, through the power of God's Spirit be healed of our brokenness and renewed in faithfulness and love.

*The bishop takes water from the font and moves through the Church sprinkling the community with holy water. Music or an appropriate refrain accompanies the ritual action.*

Insert words to any refrain being used here.

*Upon returning the bishop goes to the font, tips the remaining water in and then returns to the chair. When all is ready he continues.*

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

**All: Amen.**

## Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

## Collect

Bishop: Let us pray

*Pause for silent prayer*

Insert the text for the Collect keeping the sense lines as set out in the Missal.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

*Please be seated. The bishop receives his mitre from the server and puts it on.*

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## The Liturgy of the Word

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### First Reading

A reading from ...

Insert the first reading for the day here.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Pause for quiet reflection.*

### Responsorial Psalm

Insert the Psalm here. Ensure it is set out as it will be prayed. e.g. indicating repeats, cantor parts, assembly parts.

*Pause for quiet reflection.*

### Second Reading

A reading from ...

Insert the second reading here.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Pause for quiet reflection.*

## **Gospel Acclamation**      *Please stand*

*As the acclamation begins the minister goes to the bishop for a blessing, then processes to the altar, takes up the Book of the Gospels and processes to the Ambo. When the bishop stands he removes his mitre and hands it to the server.*

*Please note only a Deacon goes to the VG for a blessing.*

*Insert the Gospel Acclamation here ensuring it is set out as it is to be prayed.*

## **Gospel**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**All:            And with your spirit.**

Minister: A reading from the holy Gospel according to ...

**All:            Glory to you O Lord**

*The bishop receives his crozier from the server.*

*Insert the Gospel here.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:    Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The Alleluia begins immediately after the people's spoken response and continues as the minister takes the Book of the Gospels to the Bishop to reverence.*

*Please remain standing until the action is complete.*

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# **Sacrament of Confirmation**

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## Presentation of Candidates

*Please be seated*

*The bishop and other ministers take their seats. The bishop receives his mitre from the server and puts it on.*

*When all is ready, the bishop stands at the chair, or moves to the most suitable place to engage with the candidates being presented. He receives his crozier from the server.*

*The presenter calls each candidate by name. The candidates stand in their place when called and remain standing until invited to sit.*

Amend or extend the rubrics regarding the presentation of candidates, adding any text associated with this. The Bishop remains at the chair for this.

## Homily

### Renewal of Baptismal Promises

*After the homily, the bishop invites the candidates to stand and then questions them. The candidates respond together.*

Bishop: ...

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

**Candidates: I do.**

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

**Candidates: 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?

**Candidates: 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?

**Candidates: 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?

**Candidates: I do.**

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

**All: Amen.**

## The Laying on of Hands

*The Bishop removes his mitre and hands it and his crozier to the server, then (while the Priests associated with him remain by his side) standing, facing the people, with hands joined, says:*

Bishop: 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.

*All pray in silence for a short time.*

*The bishop and the priests who will minister the sacrament with him lay hands upon all the candidates (by extending their hands over them).  
The bishop alone says:*

Bishop: 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.

**All: Amen.**

## The Anointing with Chrism

*The bishop receives his mitre from the server and puts it on.*

*Amend the following rubrics to outline the process for confirmation.*

*The Chrism is brought to the bishop. Each candidate goes to the bishop, or the bishop may go to the individual candidates. The one who presented the candidate places his right hand on the latter's shoulder and gives the candidate's name to the bishop, or the candidate may give his or her own name.*

*The bishop dips his right thumb in the chrism and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed, as he says:*

Bishop: N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Child: Amen.**

*The bishop touches the cheek of the newly confirmed as a sign of peace.*

Bishop: Peace be with you.

**Child: And with your Spirit.**

*Music or an appropriate hymn may accompany the anointing.*

*If a hymn is used it is inserted here.*

## The Universal Prayer *Please stand*

*The bishop removes his mitre and hands it to the server.*

Insert introductory statement, petitions and concluding prayer here.

*Bishop Bill sits and puts on his mitre.*

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# The Liturgy of the Eucharist

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## The Preparation of the Gifts

If a hymn is being used for the Preparation of the Gifts it is inserted here. Also if using a hymn or the prayers are being prayed quietly, delete the people's response 'Blessed be God forever' from the following prayers.

*After receiving the bread and wine Bishop Bill moves to the altar, removes his mitre and continues. He takes the vessel holding the bread, and holding it slightly above the altar, says inaudibly:*

Bishop: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for through your goodness we have received  
the bread we offer you:  
fruit of the earth and work of human hands,  
it will become for us the bread of life.

*He then places the paten with the bread on the corporal.*

**All: Blessed be God forever.**

*The deacon, or the priest, pours wine and a little water into the chalice, saying quietly:*

By the mystery of this water and wine  
may we come to share in the divinity of Christ  
who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

*Taking the chalice and holding it slightly above the altar, the bishop says inaudibly:*

Bishop: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for through your goodness we have received  
the wine we offer you:  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands,  
it will become our spiritual drink.

*Then he places the chalice on the corporal.*

**All: Blessed be God forever.**

*The bishop bows and says inaudibly:*

Bishop: With humble spirit and contrite heart  
may we be accepted by you, O Lord,  
and may our sacrifice in your sight this day  
be pleasing to you, Lord God.

*The bishop washes his hands, saying inaudibly:*

Bishop: Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

*Please stand*

Bishop: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),  
that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

**All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good  
and the good of all his holy Church.**

*Insert the Prayer Over the Offerings here*

Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer X (Preface XXX)**

*Insert the Eucharistic Prayer and Preface here.*

## Communion Rite *Please stand*

Bishop: My brothers and sisters,  
the power of the Holy Spirit  
enables us to pray and to call God Our Father.  
So let us pray with one voice,  
as the Lord Jesus Christ taught us.

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

Bishop: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**All: For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

*The bishop, with hands extended, says aloud:*

Bishop: Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,  
look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity

in accordance with your will.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

*The bishop extends and then joins his hands, and continues:*

Bishop: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Bishop: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*The assembly exchanges a sign of peace.*

*The bishop then takes the host, breaks it over the paten, and places a small piece in the chalice, saying quietly:*

Bishop: May this mingling of the Body and Blood  
of our Lord Jesus Christ  
bring eternal life to us who receive it.

*Meanwhile, the assembly prays:*

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

*The bishop, with hands joined, continues inaudibly:*

Bishop: May the receiving of your Body and Blood,  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
not bring me to judgement and condemnation,  
but through your loving mercy  
be for me protection in mind and body  
and a healing remedy.

*The bishop genuflects, takes the host and, holding it slightly raised above the paten or above the chalice, while facing the people, says aloud:*

Bishop: Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All: Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.**

*The following communion hymns are to be used only as needed for  
the communion procession*

Insert Communion Hymn(s) here

If there is first communion, please include rubrics that explain how this is  
to take place.

*After communion, a period of silence is observed.*

**Prayer after Communion** *Please stand.*

Bishop: Let us pray.

Insert the prayer here.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

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## The Concluding Rites

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### Presentation of Certificates

*The bishop addresses the sponsors inviting them to present the newly  
confirmed with their certificates.*

### Special Greeting

This is only included if there are people to be greeted by the bishop as  
outlined in the Diocesan Guidelines for Confirmation item 14. People

would only be presented to the bishop and vicar general, not to delegates.

## Greeting

*The bishop receives his mitre from the server and puts it on.*

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

## Solemn Blessing

Choose either the Solemn Blessing or the Prayer Over the People  
(Missal pg. 1188)

Bishop: Bow down for the blessing

Bishop: May God the Father almighty bless you  
whom he has made his sons and daughters  
reborn by the Holy Spirit,  
and may he keep you worthy of his fatherly love.

**All: Amen.**

Bishop: May his Only Begotten Son,  
who promised the Spirit of truth would abide in his Church,  
bless you and confirm you by his power  
in the confession of the true faith.

**All: Amen.**

Bishop: May the Holy Spirit,  
who kindles the fire of charity in the hearts of disciples,  
bless you and lead you blameless and gathered as one,  
into the joy of the Kingdom of God

**All: Amen.**

*The bishop receives his crozier from the server.*

Bishop: May almighty God bless all of you who are gathered here,  
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

**OR**

## Prayer Over the People

Bishop: Bow down for the blessing.

Bishop: Confirm O God,  
what you have brought about in us,  
and preserve in the hearts of your faithful  
the gifts of the Holy Spirit:  
may they never be ashamed  
to confess Christ crucified before the world  
and by devoted charity  
may they ever fulfil his commands.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

*The bishop receives his crozier from the server.*

Bishop: May almighty God bless all of you who are gathered here,  
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

## Dismissal

Bishop: Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Recessional Hymn

Insert hymn here

## Acknowledgement

All hymns/mass parts used in the liturgy are to be acknowledged where they occur in the People's booklet or powerpoint. Please see the template and other resources on the diocesan [website](#) for further information.

An acknowledgement of the Missal, Oder of Confirmation and Scripture texts must also be made. What appears below incorporates most things you will need. Delete the scripture acknowledgement you are not using. Please note the very strict conditions for amending any text covered by copyright.

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# Organisation sheet

**Presider:**

**Concelebrants:**

**Deacon**

**Servers:**

**Music:**

## **INTRODUCTORY RITE**

**Entrance Procession:**

*Processional Cross:*

*Candles:*

*Book of the Gospels:*

**Introduction:**

**Sprinkling Rite:**

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading:**

**Psalm:**

**Second Reading:**

**Gospel:**

## **SACRMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

**Presentation of Candidates:**

**Homily:**

**Universal Prayer:**

## **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Presentation of the Gifts (2):**

**Ministers of Communion:**

## **CONCLUDING RITE**

**Presentation of Certificates:**

**Special Greeting:**