



St. Jude's Catholic Primary School

We live, love and learn together joyfully in Jesus' name.



*"... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea
and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)*

What is the Sacrament of Confirmation?

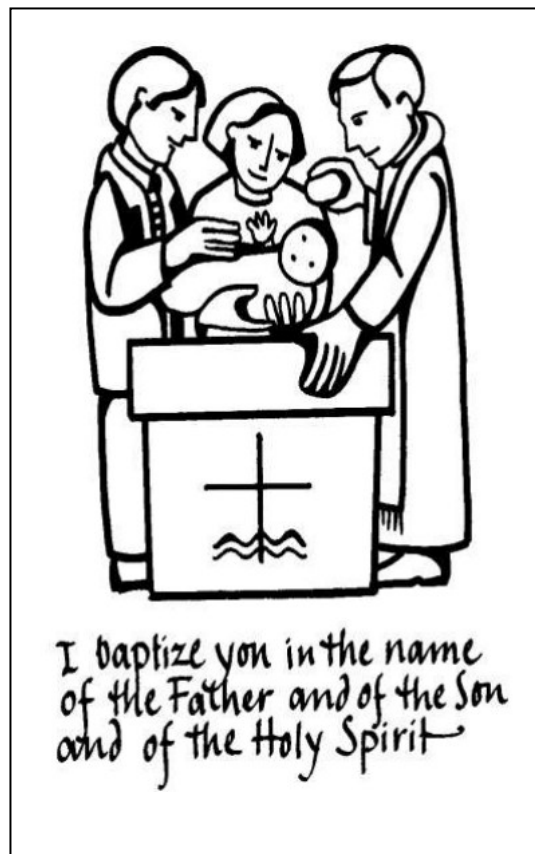
Confirmation is one of the three 'Sacraments of Initiation' in the Catholic Church. The other two are the Sacrament of Baptism and the Sacrament of First Communion. 'Initiation' means the start of something. We are starting to learn more and more about Jesus and the things he teaches.

The word 'confirmation' means 'strengthening.' When we were baptised, the Holy Spirit started to work inside us. When we receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit works in us even more. We receive extra strength to live good lives like Jesus.

Confirmation and Baptism

The Sacrament of Confirmation is closely connected to the Sacrament of Baptism ...

- 1) Both are sacraments of **INITIATION**. This means that you are on your way to becoming a full member of the Church family.
- 2) We are anointed with the oil of **CHRISM** in both sacraments. In Baptism God calls us by name to be his forever. We choose a Saint's name when we make our Confirmation.
- 3) Our parents make promises for us at our Baptism. In Confirmation we make these promises ourselves.
- 4) In Baptism we receive the Holy Spirit. In Confirmation, we are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit again.



What is Chrism?



Chrism is made from olive oil and has perfume added to it. Chrism is blessed at a special Mass before Easter. Every parish is given some of the oil to use throughout the year.

Why is the oil used? Oil is a sign or symbol of cleansing and making clean. Oil is a sign of healing. Oil is a sign of strength and power.

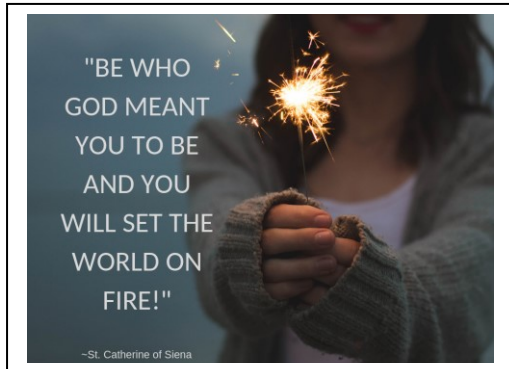
What is a Saint?

A Saint is an ordinary person just like you and me who has lived a very good life and tried to follow Jesus. God gives everyone special gifts which help us to live good lives. The Saints are people who used God's gifts very well and in a special way.

When someone dies, and their friends and family think they were really good, the Church will investigate their lives. If the Church decides that



they could be a Saint, the Pope agrees that they should be called 'venerable.' The next step is to wait for a miracle. A person like you and me can pray to a Saint to ask for a special thing like healing. If a miracle happens, the Pope agrees that they should be called 'blessed.' The last step is one more



miracle. Then the Pope agrees that the person is now a Saint.

The Saints are there to help us. The Saints bring our prayers to God. Mary is a Saint. When we pray the Hail Mary and ask Mary for something, she brings our prayer to God. When you choose a saint for Confirmation, you are choosing them as a guide, a role-model for your life, someone to bring your prayers to God. You need to really learn about your saint and explain why you have chosen the one that you have.

You can learn more about different saints here: <https://mycatholickids.com/all-the-saints/>

Where does Confirmation come from?

Jesus himself gave us the Sacrament of Confirmation. Before he went to heaven, Jesus promised his friends (disciples) that he would send the Holy Spirit to give them help them to spread the Good News throughout the world. Jesus kept this promise on the day of Pentecost. The day of Pentecost over 2000 years ago, then, is the day that Jesus' apostles received what today we call the Sacrament of Confirmation.

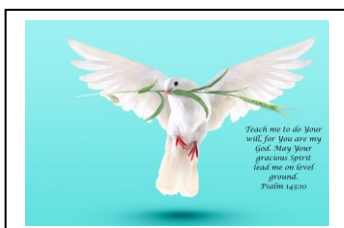
The Day of Pentecost Read the full story in Acts 2.

Every year the Jews celebrated a feast called Pentecost. The feast of Pentecost took place 50 days after another feast called Passover. A feast is a happy day.

Not long after Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus' twelve apostles gathered together in one room. Something amazing happened that day! A strong wind came and filled the room. Then, tongues of fire came and stood beside each apostle. The apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and were suddenly able to speak in all different languages! People were amazed to hear these men from Galilee speaking in foreign languages. At first they thought that the apostles were drunk! The apostle Peter stood up bravely and spoke to the crowd about Jesus. He had never been able to do this before as he was too shy – but the Holy Spirit had given him strength. The crowd really listened to Peter! In fact, thanks to Peter 3000 people were baptised that day. Today, we celebrate Pentecost 50 days after Easter.



Who is the Holy Spirit?



God is only one single being, but he exists in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We call these three persons of God the Trinity. This is a very tricky thing to understand, and this is why we call it a MYSTERY. An easy way to describe the Holy Spirit is 'God's love for us.'

The Holy Spirit is mentioned many times in the bible. The Holy Spirit is described as being like the wind. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit came to the apostles firstly like a wind and then like tongues of fire. The Holy Spirit is described as a dove when Jesus is baptised.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

When we make the Sacrament of Confirmation, we are given 7 special gifts. The Holy Spirit brings to our lives these seven gifts, which help us to live as God wants us to.

Wisdom

The Holy Spirit's gift of Wisdom helps people to have a deep understanding of God and to value the things of God. People who draw on the gift of Wisdom recognise that material things or possessions are not as important as spiritual things, such as love, peace and other things that relate to God. The material things of this world are only temporary – unlike God, who is everlasting or eternal.

Understanding

The Holy Spirit's gift of Understanding helps Christians to know God better. We can never fully know God because God is a mystery that our human minds can never fully understand. But we can come to understand many things about God through the gift of Understanding.

Counsel (Right Judgement)

Through the gift of Right Judgement, the Holy Spirit inspires and guides Christians to make the right decisions and to do the right thing. This can be particularly important in difficult situations, where it isn't always easy to know what the right thing to do is and to choose to do it.



Fortitude (Courage)

The Holy Spirit's gift of Courage gives Christians the strength to do God's will and to stand up for what is right. Sometimes this may not be the popular or easy thing to do. It can often mean being rejected or criticised.

Knowledge

The Holy Spirit's gift of Knowledge helps Christians to know and understand God's truth and God's plan for us in a deeper way. Full knowledge of God can only come about by God revealing certain truths to us – which we call Divine Revelation.

Piety (Reverence)

The Holy Spirit's gift of Reverence helps Christians to show their love for God. People filled with this gift have a deep respect for God. They desire to show this by taking part in the Church's public liturgies and by praying at other times on their own.

Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe in God's presence)

The Holy Spirit's gift of Wonder and Awe in God's presence helps Christians to know how great God is. This gift helps people to recognise the wonders of God's creation and to know that God alone is perfect.

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

St Paul wrote a letter to the young Christian community in Galatia, in ancient Turkey. In his letter he said that if we are led or guided by the Holy Spirit, then we will have 'Spirit-filled' lives. St Paul described Spirit-filled lives as lives filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. These characteristics will be small at first, like seeds. However, if we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us, they will eventually grow to be like fruit on a tree, on display for everyone to see.

The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control.



The Liturgy of Confirmation

During the Sacrament of Confirmation the priest or bishop asks the Confirmation candidates to confirm the promises that were made on their behalf at Baptism. The Sacrament of Confirmation is their opportunity to renew those promises themselves as disciples of Jesus.

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

There are four parts to the Rite of Confirmation.

1) **Calling by name** After the Readings and the homily, each of the Confirmation candidates is called by name and asked to stand. The celebrant explains what it means to be confirmed.



2) **Renewal of baptismal promises** Candidates are asked to renew their baptismal promises. These are the promises their families made on their behalf when they were baptised. They are now old enough to make these promises themselves. This is their way of saying that they want to confirm the promises made on their behalf at Baptism. You will be asked some questions and the correct response to them is 'I do.'

3) **Laying on of hands and calling upon the Holy Spirit** In Old Testament times the laying on of hands was a sign of blessing. The Gospels tell us that, following in this tradition, Jesus placed his hands on people as a sign of blessing or healing. The Acts of the Apostles also tells us that, after Pentecost, Peter and John laid their hands on

the newly baptised followers of Jesus, 'and they received the Holy Spirit' (Acts of the Apostles 8:17). So, too, in Confirmation the celebrant lays his hands upon those whom he is confirming (by extending his hands over them). This is a sign that the gift of the Holy Spirit is being given to them.

The celebrant then says a special prayer to call down the Holy Spirit upon those who are about to be confirmed. The bishop will draw a cross on the forehead with the oil of Chrism and, using the candidates Saint's name say: "xxxxxxx, be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." Candidates should respond by saying, "Amen." The bishop will also say: "Peace be with you, and the correct response is, "And with your spirit."

4) **Anointing with chrism** Candidates go forward to the celebrant to be anointed with the oil of chrism. The celebrant addresses each candidate by name as he anoints them with chrism. The celebrant dips his right thumb in the chrism and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the candidate, saying, '(Name), be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.' The celebrant then offers the newly confirmed person a sign of peace.

Confirmation Sponsors

For a child's Baptism, it is parents, along with other family members, who choose godparents to help them to raise their child to know and love God. In Confirmation, candidates choose for themselves a person who will help them to live a Christian life, strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

It is often a good idea for candidates to ask a godparent to be their Confirmation sponsor, as it is likely that he/ she has journeyed with them for most of their lives. In some cases, this is not possible. Candidates can therefore think of someone else who will support their decision to live as a follower of Jesus and as a member of the Church. This person should be a confirmed, practising Catholic who has received Holy Communion. Except in unusual circumstances, they must not be less than sixteen years old.



Making a Difference after Confirmation

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

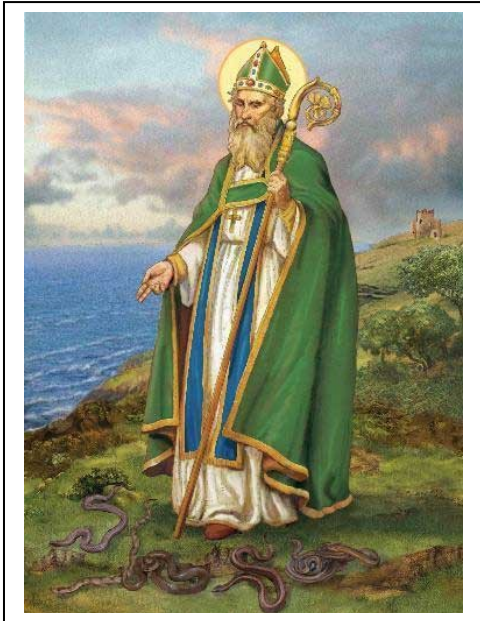
At our Baptism we received the Holy Spirit for the first time. In Confirmation, we receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit. This means that the Holy Spirit is strengthened within us. The Holy Spirit is ready to inspire us to live our lives as followers of Jesus if our hearts are open to the Spirit's guidance. This same Holy Spirit has inspired millions of people since the time of Christ.

CHRISTIAN HEROES

Read the following descriptions of how the Holy Spirit inspired these people to be Christian heroes, spreading the Good News about Jesus and about God's love far and wide.

St Peter Just moments after receiving the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, as Jesus had promised would happen, Peter spoke to the crowd of people who had gathered in Jerusalem (Acts of the Apostles 2:14-42). He knew that they needed to hear that Jesus was God's Son, and that he had come on earth to show people a new way to live and a new way to love. Peter was so convincing that about three thousand people were baptised that very day. Soon after that, Peter cured a man who could not walk, who was sitting outside the Temple (Acts of the Apostles 3:1-10). According to Christian tradition, Peter was crucified in Rome under Emperor Nero, who persecuted many Christians. It is believed that he asked to be crucified upside down, since he saw himself unworthy to be crucified in the same way as Jesus.





St Patrick St Patrick came to Ireland as a young boy, some time in the fourth century. He was brought here as a slave and he lived a lonely life for many years. Patrick eventually escaped and found his way home to his family. He often prayed to God and listened for God's response. With the help of the Holy Spirit, he eventually became a priest and returned to Ireland to tell the people the Good News of God's love. He knew that this was a message the Irish people needed to hear.

St Teresa of Calcutta (Kolkata)

St Teresa was born in Albania in 1910. Later she moved to Calcutta (now Kolkata), India, where she lived for most of her life. St Teresa became very distressed when she saw the living conditions of the poor of Calcutta. People who were sick and even dying had nowhere to go and no one to look after them, so they would simply lie down on the side of the street. Medicine was in short supply, as was food and education. Inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit, St Teresa worked with other women to open the hospitals, orphanages and schools that the people so desperately needed. These places continue to offer help and support to people today.



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 ever enjoy His consolations,
Through Christ Our Lord.

AMEN

