



The Celebration of  
Confirmation in the  
Diocese of Meath  
2023  
(Outside of Holy Mass)



*(Entrance Hymn)*

Greeting

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

**Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**And with your spirit.**

Collect

Let us pray,

Grant we pray almighty and merciful God,  
that the Holy Spirit coming near,  
and dwelling graciously within us,  
may make us a perfect temple of His glory.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

**Amen**



# The Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

11:1-4

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,  
a scion thrusts from his roots:  
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,  
a spirit of wisdom and insight,  
a spirit of counsel and power,  
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.  
The fear of the Lord is his breath.  
He does not judge by appearances,  
he gives no verdict on hearsay,  
but judges the wretched with integrity,  
and with equity a verdict for the poor of the land.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps. 103: 1.24. 27-28. 30-31. 33-34.*

**R/** *Send forth your spirit, O Lord,  
and renew the face of the earth.*

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!  
Lord God, how great you are.  
How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your riches. ... **R/**



2. All of these look to you  
to give them their food in due season.  
You give it, they gather it up;  
You open your hand, they have their fill. ... *R/*
  
3. You send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the earth.  
May the glory of the Lord last for ever!  
May the Lord rejoice in his works. ... *R/*
  
4. I will sing to the Lord all my life,  
Make music to my God while I live.  
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.  
I find my joy in the Lord. ... *R/*

### Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

8:26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Come, holy Spirit,  
Send forth a ray of your light from on high.  
Alleluia



*During the Season of Lent:*

Praise and Honour to you, Lord Jesus!  
Come, holy Spirit,  
Send forth a ray of your light from on high.  
Praise and Honour to you, Lord Jesus!

### Gospel

The Lord be with you  
**And with your spirit**

A reading from the holy gospel according to John. 21:15-17  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus showed himself to his disciples, and after they had eaten he said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?' He answered, 'Yes Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' He replied, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Look after my sheep.' Then he said to him a third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was upset that he asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" and said, 'Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.

I tell you most solemnly,  
when you were young  
you put on your own belt  
and walked where you liked;  
but when you grow old  
you will stretch out your hands,  
and somebody else will put a belt round you  
and take you where you would rather not go.'

The gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**



## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Presentation of the Candidates

*The candidates are presented to the Bishop for the Sacrament of Confirmation by the Parish Priest, or delegated by him, the teachers may do so by the calling of the candidate's name. The candidates on being called, stand up. They may be seated again at the end of the presentation.*

HOMILY

*The Bishop instructs the seated candidates and the faithful on the meaning, duties and responsibilities given by the Sacrament of Confirmation.*

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

*The candidates are invited to stand to renew their baptismal promises. The responses should be given in a raised voice to the questions asked by the Bishop.*

Do you renounce Satan and all his works and all his empty show?

*The candidates respond together: I do.*

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

**I do.**

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?

**I do.**

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?

**I do.**

Do you believe in the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting?



**I do.**

*The bishop confirms their profession of faith by proclaiming the faith of the Church:*

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

*The whole congregation responds:*

**Amen.**

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

*Bishop, (with priests remaining by his side) facing the people, with hands joined, says:*

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.

*All pray in silence for a short period*

Bishop, (along with priests), with hands extended, alone says:

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 judgment 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.

**Amen.**

THE ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

*Each candidate goes before the Bishop, makes a sign of reverence, and kneels. The candidate's sponsor places their right hand on the candidate's shoulder, and gives the chosen name of the candidate to the bishop (or the candidate will do so themselves)*



*The bishop anoints the forehead of the candidate with Holy Chrism, saying:*

N., Be sealed, ✠ with the gift of the Holy Spirit

*The newly confirmed replies:*

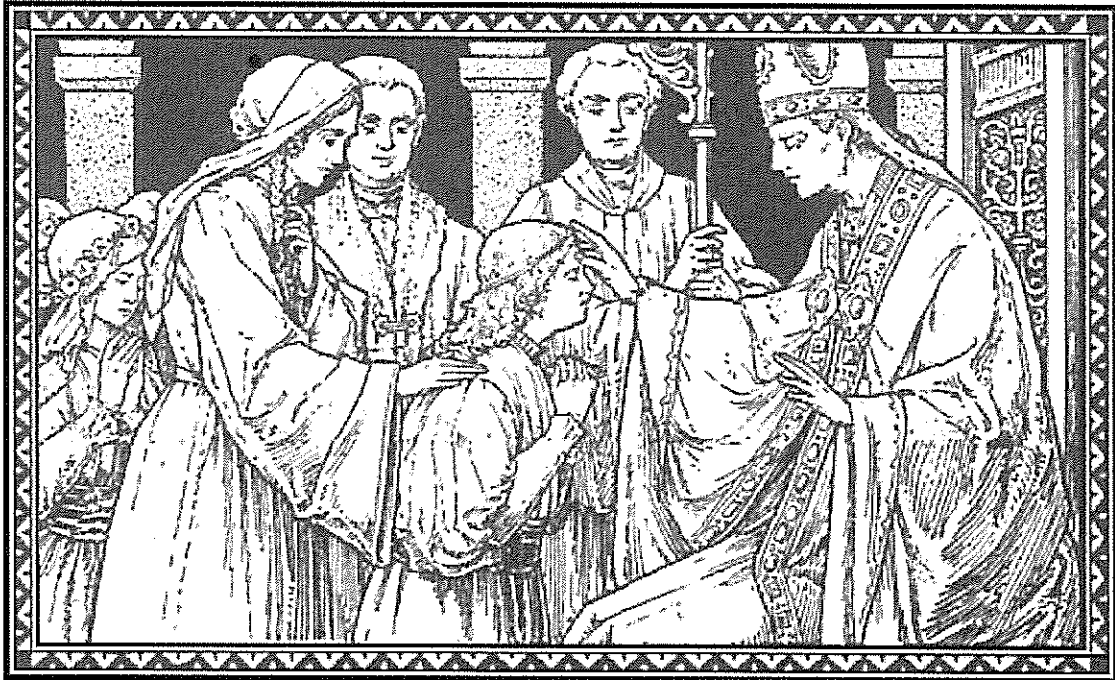
**Amen**

*The bishop adds:*

Peace with you

*The newly confirmed replies:*

**And with your spirit**





## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

### Introduction

Heavenly Father, we turn to you, imploring your great mercy to hear our prayers. Just as you have sent your Holy Spirit into our hearts, may He now raise these our prayers to you.

We pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, our Bishop Thomas, all priests and religious and all God's people, that we may be strengthened in faith, hope and charity.

Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

For all of us, sons and daughters of God, confirmed by the gift of the Spirit, that we may give witness to Christ, by lives built on faith and love:

Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

For our parents, guardians and godparents, who led us in faith, that by word and example they may always encourage us to follow the way of Jesus Christ: Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for people who are in need today; the poor, the sick, the homeless, and people displaced from their home countries. By the strength of the Holy Spirit, may we show the love of Christ to all.

Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

In a moment of silent prayer, we bring to the Lord those intentions and prayers kept in the silence of our hearts (**PAUSE.....**).

Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

Lord, we entrust our Faithful Departed into your merciful heart. May our loved ones who have died come to know the fullness of life in your presence.

Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

### Conclusion

Almighty God and Father, through your Son, Jesus Christ you said "Ask and you shall receive", may you receive these our prayers and as they accord to your will, hear and answer them, through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



## The Lord's Prayer

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

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.

Ár nAthair atá ar neamh,  
go naofar d'ainm  
Go dtaga do ríocht  
Go ndéantar do thoil  
ar an talamh mar a dhéantar ar  
neamh.  
ár n-arán laethúil tabhair dúinn  
inniu  
Agus maith dúinn ár bhfiacha  
Mar a mhaithimidne ár  
bhféichiúnaithe féin  
Agus ná lig sinn i gcathú  
ach saor sinn ó olc.



## Confirmation Pledge

Lord Jesus, on this my Confirmation Day, I make a special promise not to consume alcohol or any drug which might harm or destroy your gift of life to me. Grant me, O Lord, your grace to keep this promise and to consider renewing this pledge when I am 18 years of age.

## Blessing of Religious Objects

Father in Heaven, we thank you for sending your spirit into our hearts to teach us to remain close to you. Bless ✠ these objects that we dedicate to you and teach us to use them as a help to sincere and devoted prayer. May we continue to grow in faith, in love for you and one another, and be pleasing to you all our lives. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.

**Amen**

## Concluding Prayer

Let us pray,

Accompany with your blessing from this day forward, O Lord,  
Those who have been anointed with the Holy Spirit  
So that with all trials overcome,  
They may gladden the Church with their holiness  
And, through their words and their charity,  
Foster her growth in the world,  
Through Christ our Lord,

**Amen**



## Solemn Blessing

The Lord be with you  
    **And with your spirit**

Bow down for the blessing

May God the Father almighty bless you,  
whom He has made His adopted sons and daughters  
reborn from water and the Holy Spirit,  
and may He keep you worthy of His fatherly love.

**Amen**

May His Only Begotten Son,  
Who promised that the Spirit of truth  
would abide in His Church,  
bless you and confirm you by His power  
in the confession of the true faith.

**Amen**

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  
in the joy of the kingdom of God.

**Amen**

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,  
The Father ✠, the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit ✠

**Amen**

The celebration of Confirmation is ended, go in peace, glorifying the  
Lord by your life.

**Thanks be to God**

*(Recessional Hymn)*

