



The Order for Confirmation

2017

The Order for Confirmation

General Notes

- 1 For those who are baptized, confirmation provides the opportunity to respond publicly to the call that baptism has made on their lives and is the acknowledgement that, as Christians, they are part of a wider fellowship with the bishop in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Confirmation is a sign that the Church wishes to pray for its members, to affirm them and accompany them on their journey of faith, in which the strengthening of the Holy Spirit is sought for them.
- 2 Christian Initiation should normally be administered in the course of public worship on a Sunday.
- 3 The minister of Baptism with Confirmation is always a bishop. The minister at the Public Baptism of Infants may be a bishop or a priest. In the absence of either, it is lawful for a deacon to baptize. (See also Note 10 below on emergency baptism.)
- 4 The term 'godparents' is used to denote those asked to present children for baptism and to continue to support them. The term 'sponsor' is used to denote those who agree to support candidates (of any age) for baptism and/or confirmation. It is not necessary for a candidate to have the same person as godparent and sponsor. Godparents and sponsors must be baptized Christians, and it is desirable that they should be regular communicants of the Church in Wales or of a Church in communion with it.
- 5 The proper Collect and Readings should be used on the Sundays and Holy Days listed in groups I and II in the New Calendar (2003). On other occasions, the Collect and Readings listed in the Orders for Baptism with Confirmation and the Public Baptism of Infants may be used.
- 6 The threefold administration of the baptismal water (by dipping or pouring) is an ancient practice of the Church and is commended as testifying to the Trinitarian faith in which candidates are baptized. A single administration is, however, lawful and valid. The use of a substantial amount of water is desirable; water must at least flow on the skin of the candidate.
- 7 If it is not certain whether a person has been baptized with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, the form of words at the baptism shall be: 'N, if you have not already been baptized, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**'
- 8 The holy oils are blessed each year by the bishop during Passiontide. Their use in these Orders is optional.
- 9 The use of hymns, psalms and other suitable songs is suggested, as appropriate to local circumstances, at any or all the following points: during the entry of the ministers, between the readings, after the Signing with the Cross (unless the officiating bishop or priest, the candidates and their sponsors/godparents are already at the font) and during the lighting and

distribution of baptismal candles, particularly when a large number of candidates has been baptized or baptized and confirmed.

- 10 In an emergency, a layperson may be the minister of baptism. Further details are given in Appendix I to the Order for Baptism and Confirmation and Appendix I to the Order for the Public Baptism of Infants.

An Order for Baptism with Confirmation

Notes

These Notes should be read in conjunction with the General Notes on page 1.

- 1 Baptism with Confirmation normally takes place in the context of the Holy Eucharist. Provision is made in Section 6 for occasions when the Eucharist is not celebrated.
- 2 When previously baptized adults are to be confirmed, section 3(3) is omitted.
- 3 Where there are candidates for Baptism, sections 3(2), 3(4), 3(5) and 3(6)* from the Order for Baptism are inserted at section 3(3) of this order.
- 4 If the baptism of children is to be administered without confirmation, the Order for the Public Baptism of Infants should be used.

This Order makes provision for children who are not old enough to answer for themselves to be baptized at the same time as their parents or other adult family members.

In these circumstances, the five questions to the parents and godparents from Section 1 of the Order for the Public Baptism of Infants should be inserted into Section 1 of this Order between the bishop's question to those being confirmed and the bishop's question to the congregation.

All responses are made on behalf of the children by their parents and godparents, and it is fitting that the children should be baptized immediately after the adult members of their families.

5. The detailed ordering of the service should be a matter for consultation between the bishop and the parish priest.

Where Baptism is administered, in Section 3(2) of the order for Baptism, the bishop may invite candidates' sponsors (and, in the case of small children, their parents and godparents) to take part in the Signing with the Cross.

In Section 3(2), the candidates may profess the Trinitarian faith by reciting the Apostles' Creed. In this case, the bishop's three questions are omitted. After the candidates have said the Creed, the bishop should continue with the words *This is the faith of the Church* to which the congregation replies in the manner indicated.

The bishop may delegate the act of baptism to another lawful minister.

6. If the holy oils are used, the candidates for baptism may be anointed with the pure olive oil known as the oil of catechumens either at the end of Section 3(1) or at the signing with the cross in Section 3(2), and chrism may be used either as indicated at the end of Section 3(5) or in Section 3(7) in conjunction with the prayer beginning *Confirm, O Lord, your servant...* Candidates who are being both baptized and confirmed should not be anointed with chrism at the end of Section 3(5).

1. **THE GATHERING.**

In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace be with you
and keep you in the love of Christ.

Or, in Eastertide,

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The bishop may introduce the service with the following.

We have come to celebrate the good news of God in Christ, and the response of faith to be made by those who come to be (baptized and) confirmed. We reaffirm our welcome to all those who seek to be disciples of Christ, and celebrate our membership together in the Body of Christ. For those who are to be (baptized and) confirmed we seek God's grace and blessing and the renewed ministry of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

The candidates stand with their sponsors in front of the bishop. The person appointed may first name the candidates.

Reverend Father / Mother in God, I present to you *these persons* that *they* may be confirmed.

The bishop asks the candidates:

N (and N), is it your wish to be confirmed?
It is.

The bishop asks the congregation:

Will you welcome these candidates for confirmation and do your best to uphold them in their life in Christ?
With the help of God, we will.

The bishop addresses the candidates in these or similar words:

Dear *friends/brothers and sisters in Christ*, you have declared your wish to respond to God's call by (being baptized or by) confirming your Baptismal promises. Through Baptism, God claims his people as his own, and makes them part of the Church, the Body of Christ. Through the laying on of hands and prayer you will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit, who confirms, strengthens and guides you in your Christian discipleship. On behalf of the Church, I, as bishop, welcome you into deeper fellowship with the whole body of Christ. By the grace of God, you will be enabled to continue on your journey of faith, committed to the mission of God's pilgrim Church as active disciples.

The following Collect may be used:

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give to your faithful people
new life in the water of baptism:
guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,
that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love
and grow into the full stature of your Son Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

2. THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD.

Except on the occasions specified in General Note 4, appropriate readings may be selected from those listed below.

AN OLD TESTAMENT READING:

Genesis 7. 17-23	The Flood.
Exodus 14. 19-31	The crossing of the Red Sea.
Exodus 20. 1-17	The Ten Commandments.
Deuteronomy 30. 15-20	The choice of two ways.
2 Kings 5. 1-15a	The healing of Naaman.
Isaiah 44. 1-5	The promise to the servant of God.
Isaiah 55. 1-11	An invitation to the thirsty.
Jeremiah 31. 31-34	The new covenant.
Ezekiel 36. 25-28	New heart, new spirit.
Ezekiel 37. 1-10	The valley of dry bones.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord **OR** Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
Thanks be to God.

A NEW TESTAMENT READING:

Acts 8. 14-17	Baptism and the gift of the Spirit.
Acts 16. 25-34	The jailer at Philippi.
Romans 6. 3-11	Dying and rising in Christ.
Romans 8. 11-17	The spirit of sonship.
1 Corinthians 12. 4-13	Many gifts, one Spirit.
1 Corinthians 12. 12-13	One body in Christ.
Galatians 4. 3-7	Abba, Father.
Galatians 5. 16-25	Flesh and Spirit.
1 Peter 2. 4-10	The people of God.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord **OR** Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Listen to the gospel of Christ according to Saint ...

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 5. 1-12	The Beatitudes.
Matthew 16. 24-27	The disciples of Christ.
Matthew 25. 31-46	The marks of mission.
Matthew 28. 16-20	The final commission.
Mark 1. 1-11	The baptism of Jesus.
Mark 1. 14-20	The first disciples.
Luke 24. 45-end	Witnesses.
John 3. 1-8	Nicodemus.
John 15. 1-11	The true vine.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

3. THE LITURGY OF CONFIRMATION

(1) The Decision.

The bishop addresses the candidates and their sponsors.

You have declared your wish to be confirmed.
We therefore now invite you to respond to Christ's call.

Do you turn to Christ?
I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?
I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?
I renounce evil.

(2) The Profession of Faith.

We invite you now to profess the Christian faith.

Do you believe in God the Father, the Creator of all?
I believe and trust in God the Father.

Do you believe in his Son Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world?
I believe and trust in God the Son.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life?
I believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit.

The bishop addresses the congregation:

This is the faith of the Church.
This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

(3) The Baptism

If there are any candidates for baptism, they shall be baptized here.

(i) The Signing with the Cross

The bishop continues:

By his cross and precious blood, our Lord Jesus Christ has redeemed the world. He has told us that, if any want to become his followers, they must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow him day by day.

The bishop makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each one who is to be baptized, saying:

N, I sign you with the sign of the cross and claim you for our Saviour Jesus Christ.

When all the candidates for baptism have been signed with the cross, the bishop continues:

Never be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**Fight valiantly against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life. Amen.**

(ii) The Blessing of the Baptismal Water.

The bishop blesses the water using one of these forms.

EITHER

We give thanks to you, O God:
we bless your holy name.

For your gift of water to nourish and sustain all life,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through the waters of the sea
you led the children of Israel from slavery to freedom:
we give you thanks and praise.

At his baptism, your Son Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit:
we give you thanks and praise.

Through the power of that same Spirit, sanctify this water
that your children who are washed in it
may be united with Christ in his death and resurrection.
Cleanse and deliver them from all sin;
bring them to new birth in the family of your Church
and make them inheritors of your kingdom:
through Jesus Christ our Lord
whom, by the power of the Spirit,
you raised to live with you
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

OR

Praise God who made heaven and earth:
who keeps his promise for ever.

Heavenly Father, we thank you
for your love in creation
and for the gift of water
to sustain, cleanse and refresh all living creatures.

We thank you for the covenant you made
with your people of old:
you led them through the sea from slavery to freedom.

We thank you that, in the waters of the Jordan,
your Son Jesus was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By his death on the cross and his resurrection,
he has brought us forgiveness and set us free.

We thank you that in the waters of baptism
you cleanse us from sin,
renew us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life.

Sanctify this water so that your children who are washed in it
may be made one with Christ.
In fulfilment of your promise,
anoint them with your Holy Spirit,
bring them to new birth in the family of your Church
and give them a share in your kingdom:
through Jesus Christ our Lord
whom, by the power of the Spirit,
you raised to live with you
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

(iii) The Baptism.

The bishop baptizes each candidate, saying:

N, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Any small children who have been baptized but are not to be confirmed on this occasion may be anointed on the crown of the head with chrism by the bishop, who says:

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace. As Christ was anointed priest, prophet and king, may you daily be conformed to his image. **Amen.**

The bishop or a member of the congregation may clothe each of the newly baptized in a white garment, saying:

You have been clothed with Christ and raised to new life in him.

[(iv) The Giving of the Light.

The bishop or a member of the congregation may give a lighted candle to each of the newly baptized.

You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

**Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.]**

(4) The Confirmation.

The bishop, standing, extends his / her hands towards the candidates for confirmation and says:

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given your servants new birth
in baptism by water and the Holy Spirit,
and have forgiven them all their sins.
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon them:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;
and let them delight in the reverence of the Lord. **Amen.**

The bishop addresses each candidate by name:

N, God has called you by name and made you his own.

The bishop lays his / her right hand on the head of each candidate, saying:

Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your heavenly grace
and anoint *him/her* with your Holy Spirit;
empower *him/her* for your service
and keep *him/her* in eternal life. **Amen.**

(5) Commitment to Christian Discipleship

The Commitment to Christian Discipleship may be used here or transferred to Section 7: The Sending Out for use immediately before the Blessing.

The bishop addresses the candidate(s)

N (and N), now that you have been renewed with the gift of the Holy Spirit I ask you to commit yourselves to the work of God's mission.

As a disciple of Christ will you continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim in word and action the Good News of the Kingdom and seek to bring others to share in God's love?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you continue to grow in the faith and encourage new believers on their journey with Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you love your neighbour as commanded in the Gospel and seek to serve others after the example of Jesus?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you play your part in society by challenging injustice of every kind and by pursuing peace and reconciliation?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth?

With the help of God, I will.

[The bishop may address the whole congregation:

People of God, will you renew your commitment, as disciples of Christ, to the work of God's mission in the world?

With the help of God, we will.]

May Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ sent his followers out into all the world,
continue to empower you with the Holy Spirit,
and equip you to be witnesses for Christ
for the glory of his name and the advancement of God's kingdom. **Amen.**

When confirmation is not conducted within the context of the Holy Eucharist the following Collects may be used.

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** ¹

Almighty and everliving God,
we pray for these your servants,
upon whom, after the example of your holy Apostles,
we have now laid our hands.
May your fatherly hand ever be over them;
may your Holy Spirit ever be with them;
and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word,
that in the end they may obtain everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

4. THE PEACE.

An appropriate sentence of Scripture may be read.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

A sign of peace may be exchanged.

5. THE EUCHARIST.

Except on the occasions specified in General Note 4, one of the following prefaces may be used:

... Who ascended to his heavenly throne at your right hand
and through whom you pour out
the Holy Spirit upon your people:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength,
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness
and of the reverence of the Lord.

... You sent him to be the Saviour of the world,
and he sends us to proclaim the good news
and to make known the way of truth.

The newly confirmed should receive Holy Communion before the other members of the congregation.

After Communion, the service concludes with Section 7.

6. PRAYERS WHEN THERE IS NO EUCHARIST.

If the Holy Eucharist is not celebrated, the service concludes with the Lord's Prayer and one or more other appropriate prayers, followed by the blessing and dismissal from Section 7.

Let us pray with confidence to the Father:

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever.
Amen.**

As our Saviour has taught us, we boldly pray:

**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.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God,
let your fatherly hand be over these your children;
let your Holy Spirit ever be with them;
strengthen them continually with the Body and Blood of your Son;
and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word,
that they may serve you in this life
and live with you for ever in the life to come;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The post-communion prayers from Section 7 are suitable for use at this point.

If small children have been baptized, further appropriate prayers may be added from the Order for the Public Baptism of Infants.

7. THE SENDING OUT.

The following post-communion prayers may be used:

Almighty God,
whose Holy Spirit equips the Church
with a rich variety of gifts:
grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ
by lives built on faith and love.
Make us ready to live his gospel
and eager to do his will,
that we may share with all your Church
in the joys of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Eternal God,
you have declared in Christ
the fulness of your purpose of love:
may we live by faith,
walk in hope
and be renewed in love,
until the world reflects your glory,
and you are all in all.
Even so; come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

The blessing may be introduced with one of the following.

Either

The Spirit of truth lead you into all the truth, give you grace to witness that Jesus Christ is Lord, and to proclaim the mighty word and works of God ...

or

God stir up in you the gifts of his Spirit, that you may witness to Christ the Lord and proclaim the joy of the eternal gospel ...

[and] the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

As disciples and pilgrims, filled with the power of the Spirit,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Or, in Eastertide

As disciples and pilgrims, filled with the power of the Spirit,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Acknowledgement

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