

St Michael & St George, Aldershot
The Cathedral Church of the Bishop of the Forces

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, 15th December 2024

The Candidates for Reception into
Full Communion with the Catholic Church

Lucy Anselin

Michelle Gibson

Hannah Macartney

who will be Confirmed in the Faith
together with

Annabelle Paintin

Charles Paintin

Jack Pearson

Confirmation is a Catholic Sacrament of mature Christian commitment and a deepening of baptismal gifts. It is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation for Catholics. It is most often associated with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

In the Old Testament the prophets announced that the Spirit of the Lord would rest on the awaited Messiah and on the entire messianic people. The whole life and mission of Jesus were carried out in total communion with the Holy Spirit. The apostles received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and proclaimed “the great works of God” (Acts 2:11). They gave the gift of the same Spirit to the newly baptized by the laying on of hands. Down through the centuries, the Church has continued to live by the Spirit and to impart him to her children.

The essential rite of Confirmation is the anointing with Sacred Chrism (oil mixed with balsam and consecrated by the bishop), which is done by the laying on of the hand of the minister who pronounces the sacramental words proper to the rite. In the West this anointing is done on the forehead of the baptized with the words, “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit”.

The effect of Confirmation is a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit like that of Pentecost. This outpouring impresses on the soul an indelible character and produces a growth in the grace of Baptism. It roots the recipient more deeply in divine son-ship, binds him more firmly to Christ and to the Church and reinvigorates the gifts of the Holy Spirit in his soul. It gives a special strength to witness to the Christian faith.

Only those already baptized can and should receive this sacrament which can be received only once. To receive Confirmation efficaciously the candidate must be in the state of grace.

The original minister of Confirmation is the bishop. In this way the link between the confirmed and the Church in her apostolic dimension is made manifest. When a priest confers this sacrament, the link with the bishop and with the Church is expressed by the priest who is the collaborator of the bishop and by the Sacred Chrism, consecrated by the bishop himself.

OPENING HYMN

Hail to the Lord's anointed!
Great David's greater son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth:
before him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing
a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious
he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest;
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever,
that name to us is love.

CELEBRATION OF RECEPTION

Cel: Hannah, Lucy, Michelle, of your own free will you have asked to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. You have made your decision after careful thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I now invite you to come forward with your sponsors and in the presence of this community to profess the Catholic faith. In this faith you will be one with us for the first time at the Eucharistic table of the Lord Jesus, the sign of the Church's unity.

The candidates come forward and all present make the profession of faith together in the words of the Nicene Creed.

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds
from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has
spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the
world to come. Amen.**

Afterwards the candidates make their personal profession of faith.

**R: *I believe and profess all that the holy Catholic Church
believes, teaches, and proclaims to be revealed by God.***

Cel: Hannah, Lucy, Michelle, the Lord receives you into the Catholic Church. His loving kindness has led you here, so that in the unity of the Holy Spirit you may have full communion with us in the faith that you have professed in the presence of his family.

CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

Cel: My dear candidates for confirmation, by your baptism you have been born again in Christ and you have become a member of Christ and of his priestly people. Now you are to share in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit among us, the Spirit sent by the Lord upon his apostles at Pentecost and given by them and their successors to the baptised.

The promised strength of the Holy Spirit, which you are to receive, will make you more like Christ and help you to be a witness to his suffering, death and resurrection. It will strengthen you to be an active member of the Church and to build up the Body of Christ in faith and love.

With hands joined, the Celebrant addresses the people.

Cel: My dear friends, let us pray to God our Father, that he will pour out the Holy Spirit on these candidates for confirmation to strengthen them with his gifts and anoint them to be more like Christ, the Son of God.

All pray briefly in silence. The Celebrant holds his hands outstretched over the candidates and says the following prayer:

Cel: All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by water and the Holy Spirit
you freed your children 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.

ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

The sponsor places their RIGHT hand on the shoulder of their candidate and calls out their name. The Celebrant will then anoint the candidate on their forehead with the oil of Chrism saying:

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

R: Amen.

Cel: Peace be with you.

R: And with your spirit.

The candidates and their sponsors return to their seats and the Mass continues with the Bidding Prayers.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love the way you love,
and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure;
until my will is one with yours,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
for all eternity.

COMMUNION HYMN

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which bears the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Hark! a herald voice is calling:
'Christ is nigh!' it seems to say;
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
waken, children of the day!

Startled at the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long-expected,
comes with pardon down from heav'n;
let us meet him with repentance,
pray that we might be forgiv'n.

So when next he comes with glory
wrapping all the earth in fear,
may he then as our Defender
on the clouds of heav'n appear.

Honour, glory, praise and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while unending ages run.

