

Please Print:

Name of candidate: _____

Date of Birth:- _____

Date of
Baptism: _____

Where: _____

Home Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Confirmation Sponsor's Name: (if known):

You will need to provide us with your Baptism certificate before you can be confirmed.

The Parish of Saint Paul the Apostle, Tottenham

The Sacrament of Confirmation



Application Form

What is confirmation?

Confirmation is the sacrament in which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way to join us more closely to Jesus and his Church and to seal and strengthen us as Christ's witnesses. It is the completion of baptismal grace.

When the Intercessor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father-the Spirit of truth that comes forth from the Father-he will bear witness to me, but you, too, will bear witness... (Jn 15:26). (See also Acts 2:4; 8:14-17)

Who is the minister of Confirmation?

Normally the bishop is the ordinary minister of Confirmation but priests may confirm in certain circumstances when authorized by the bishop.

What does "confirm" mean?

To confirm means to strengthen. In Confirmation our faith is deepened and strengthened, and through this sacrament we are more perfectly bound to Christ and to his Church.

How is Confirmation given?

The bishop extends his hands over the person and anoints the forehead in the form of a cross while saying: "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit." The person being confirmed answers "Amen," meaning, "Let it be so." The Gift is the Holy Spirit, who is the Gift of the Father and the Son to us.

Then they laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17).

What makes up the sign of Confirmation?

The sign of Confirmation is made up of anointing and words.

What does the action of confirming tell us about the sacrament?

In the action of confirming, the anointing shows that strength and power are being received from the Holy Spirit. This anointing is a sign of our consecration to Jesus Christ.

What do we mean by "anointing"?

"Anointing" means "signing with oil." The blessed oil that is used is called chrism which stands for spiritual strength. The sweet-smelling aromatic substance that it contains stands for freedom from sin and the spreading of goodness.

What do the words signify?

The words signify that we are receiving the Holy Spirit in a special way, and are being sealed or marked as Christ's witnesses.

What are the effects of Confirmation?

Those who are Confirmed have become full-pledged members of the Church. They have received spiritual strength and special graces to help them better witness to Christ. The confirmed have also grown in the graces and gifts first received in Baptism. This is indicated during the Confirmation ceremony when the Holy Spirit is called upon to come with his seven gifts.

They prayed over them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet come upon any of them-they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 8:15-16).

What are the duties of those who are confirmed?

The confirmed are to keep on learning about their faith. They are to live it, love it, stand up for it and share it as Christ's witnesses.

What do we mean when we say that a Christian is sealed as Christ's witness?

In Confirmation a Christian receives a second spiritual seal which lasts forever. The first lasting spiritual seal was received at Baptism; Confirmation seals our public commitment to Christ begun in Baptism. This seal is called a character.

Who may receive Confirmation?

Anyone who is baptized who has not been confirmed may receive Confirmation. The Church urges us to study our faith well before receiving Confirmation, because we are expected to live up to our faith.

Is there a preferred age for confirming?

The person to be confirmed should have reached the age of 10 or 11.

How should I prepare for Confirmation?

You take part in our specially prepared Confirmation course: *Christians for Life*

17. What is the purpose of a Confirmation sponsor?

A Confirmation sponsor has the same duties as a baptismal godparent. The Church suggests that the baptismal godparent become the Confirmation sponsor, however, another sponsor may be chosen, who is a regular member of the Church.

18. Is another saint's name taken in Confirmation?

You are very welcome to take another saint's name in Confirmation if you wish.