



CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME OUTLINE

1 Are You Ready?

Introductory Meeting

2 Baptism

I am named. I am known. I am called
Our identity and our relationship with the Father and Jesus

Rite: Enrolment at parish Sunday Eucharist

3 Church

We are family. We are community. We celebrate together

Take a role in the parish Sunday Eucharist

4 Spirit and Gifts of the Spirit

We are Gifted. We are Heroes. We are Light to the World
Gifts and talents – to be used and shared

Rite: Presentation of a Bible during parish Sunday Eucharist

5 Witness

We are just. We are brave. We stand together
The Spirit shapes our lives

Rite: of Election at parish Sunday Eucharist

6 The Ceremony/Rite and its symbols

Signed, Sealed and Delivered
Are we ready? Practicalities

Rehearsal

Rite: Confirmation Liturgy

7 "Mystagogy": A Follow-up Retreat Day

Love It! Live It! Pass it on!
Unpacking the experience. Looking to the future. Celebration

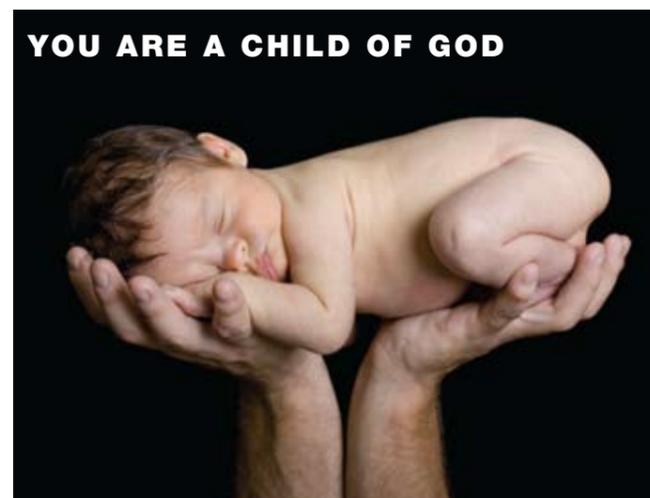
Templates and other materials available to download from
www.iamconfirmed.co.uk

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I am Confirmed website
www.iamconfirmed.co.uk



The division of these sessions is based on the chief points outlined in the Catechism of the Catholic Church in its description of Confirmation (especially CCC #1302-1305).

Before each session, think about:

- The room: is it inviting, comfortable, warm, light, tidy?
- Refreshments: do we intend to offer them at the start, during, or at the end of the session?
- Seating: avoid giving the impression of a school. (Rows of chairs all facing forward to the speaker(s) would create the wrong impression. Desks/tables can also act as a barrier) Arranging the seating in a circle or semi-circle creates an atmosphere more conducive to sharing and participation
- Any special needs of individual participants

OPENING PRAYER

This is printed in the candidates' book, *Confirmed*, and may be photocopied from the template in this book or downloaded from the website www.iamconfirmed.co.uk

Tip: Print it on a card with the dates of the meetings on the reverse side.

Loving Father,
when we were baptised you made us your sons and daughters.
We thank you for inviting us now to experience your love in a new way by receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation.
Take away any fear that we might have.
Give us the courage to say yes to your Holy Spirit
and to be true friends of Jesus your Son,
who is our Lord and our brother forever and ever. **Amen**

SCRIPTURE QUOTES USED

SESSION 1 John 20: 19-22	Jesus gives the gift of the Spirit
SESSION 2 Matthew 3: 16-17 Matthew 16: 13-18 Jeremiah 1: 5	Baptism of Jesus You are Peter The Call of Jeremiah
SESSION 3 Acts 2: 42-47 Acts 2:1-4; 14; 16-18. 21 1 Cor 12:4-5 Luke 24:28-32	The first Christian Community The first Pentecost Many gifts, one Spirit The Road to Emmaus
SESSION 4 Matthew 25:14-25 Matthew 5: 14-16	The Parable of the Talents You are the Light of the World
SESSION 5 Luke 4: 18-19	Jesus at Nazareth
SESSION 6 Galatians 5:22-25 John 14:27	The Fruits of the Spirit Peace I leave you
SESSION 7 Acts 2:42-47 Matthew 6:9-13 John 21: 15-19	The first Church Our Father Breakfast by the Sea of Galilee
PRESENTATION OF BIBLES Hebrews 4:12	The Word of God

WHO WE ARE

John Lumley is a parish priest and Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation in the Diocese of Middlesbrough. He has also worked as diocesan Director of Religious Education, and for several years taught in the Pastoral Department at St Cuthbert's Seminary, Ushaw College, Durham. Prior to ordination, John taught RE at a mixed 11-16 Catholic comprehensive school, and was a Confirmation catechist in his home parish.

Paul Farrer is a priest of the Middlesbrough Diocese. He has led the Diocesan Youth Service for ten years and has also acted as Coordinator of School Chaplaincy. Paul has served as a parish priest in four parishes and has recently established a Diocesan Youth Ministry Team. He is an experienced retreat leader for young people in his own diocese and beyond.

Laura Cutler studied at Liverpool Hope University and since then has worked as lay chaplain in three Catholic secondary schools in the dioceses of Middlesbrough and Hexham & Newcastle. She brings a wealth of pastoral experience of working with young people in both school and parish settings. She is married and is the proud mother of one.

preparing the session

Aims:

- To welcome potential candidates
- To allow them to meet each other and the catechists
- To explain something of what Confirmation is
- To give enquirers the opportunity to reflect on whether they wish to be confirmed
- To give a brief outline of the programme and the commitment required

Introduction for Catechists

In this session, catechists aim primarily to put prospective candidates at their ease. A warm welcome is absolutely essential. The initial activities are intended to break the ice, acknowledge some potential anxieties, and start to help the candidates to get to know each other and the catechists.

Some input is provided on what Confirmation means, using some key phrases found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (##1302 – 1305).

A good bit of information has been included here for catechists, however, as this is an initial meeting, it is best not to overload (and risk confusing) potential candidates. The points raised here will be covered gradually and in more depth throughout the programme. You may decide to divide this material for use over two sessions, so that the initial session is fairly brief and practical. Finally, catechists will be able to run through the format of the programme, indicating the kind of commitment that is needed, and making time for any questions. It would be useful if catechists could "linger with intent" at the end of the session – making it clear that they are available to respond to individual questions or worries, once the final prayer has been said.

Outline of Session

- Welcome (5 minutes)
- Introduction (20 - 25 minutes)
- Input 1: Some basic information about Confirmation (10 minutes)
- Poster Exercise: What's it all about? (10-15 minutes)
- Talk through the Programme (10 minutes+)
- Final Prayer (5 minutes)

Refreshments

Allow time for people to assemble. Candidates to draw/write their own name tags.

template

CONFIRMATION

Name:

Before you begin

Either alone, or preferably with the other catechists, take some time to think about why you have agreed to be a catechist for Confirmation. What is it about Confirmation that is so important or attractive to you? What do you hope to achieve? What anxieties do you have?

Confirmation is about the candidates' relationship with God being deepened and strengthened. How is your personal relationship with God as we start this course? Do you feel comfortable about sharing your relationship with God with the young people? Are YOU ready?

template

introduce your partner

Name

Age

Brothers and sisters

School

Favourite music or sport

Hobbies and interests

If they could be someone famous, who would it be and why?

Who is your hero?

What are your talents/what are you good at?

Something they are good at....

You will need

- Have refreshments ready: drinks, biscuits etc
- Make sure the room is inviting comfortable, warm, light, tidy
- Posters and symbols connected with Confirmation could be placed in the room, on notice boards, etc. Display key words (see exercise below). PowerPoint images could be used instead
- Name Tags [provide a template to print onto labels, with the logo of the programme]
- Questions for "Introduce your Partner" [template] on flipchart, PowerPoint or handouts
- Pens
- Prayer cards/leaflets (with dates of all sessions on reverse) for each participant
- Seating: Remember to avoid giving the impression of a school.

ARE YOU READY?

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION? WHY BE CONFIRMED?

1. WELCOME

When people have assembled, and have their refreshments, invite them to take their seats.

The catechist says:

You are warmly welcome to this get-together here in St X's parish. Tonight we want to tell you a little bit about how we are going to prepare to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation in our parish. This session is to help you to decide if you feel you are ready to accept God's invitation to this sacrament.

My name is ...AB....., and together with CD, EF and GH, we will be with you over the next few months as you journey towards Confirmation.

Let's begin with a short prayer:

Loving God
 be with us as we meet together.
 Bless our listening and our speaking,
 guide our thinking and our sharing.
 Calm the fears of any of us who are nervous or shy
 and fill us with great confidence
 because we are all your daughters
 and sons, loving Father,
 and so brothers and sisters of each other.
 Through Christ our Lord.
 Amen

2. ICEBREAKER

(or longer, depending on the size of the group)

The catechist says:

First of all, we need some way to get to know each other. Even if most of you know each other, there is always something new to find out – and this is a way of helping us catechists also to get to know you all.

GAME:

'STEP UP TO THE LINE IF

Make a line along the middle of the room. Get everyone, including catechists, to start by standing on the line

Catechist reads the following statements. For each statement, people move to the right hand wall if they agree, to the left hand wall if they disagree, and stay on the line if they are unsure. (Questions at the beginning are intended to get them moving so that they become comfortable doing so for the more personal statements) Complete with a local football club, parish and school.

template



I like chocolate

I like sprouts

I follow Football club

I like to shop

I know about something relevant to the present time (e.g. current political issues, world events etc.)

I know someone here

I know more than 5 people here

I felt nervous about coming here tonight

I was looking forward to coming here tonight

I don't know how I ended up here

I belong toParish/ School

I always thought I'd get confirmed

I never thought I'd plan on getting confirmed

I'm not sure if Confirmation is for me

I don't know what Confirmation is