

The Church of Ireland ~ Diocese of Clogher



**Service of
Confirmation
and
Holy Communion**



Sunday 12th May 2019

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Welcome

to our Service of Confirmation today.

We warmly welcome all who come to share in this Service of Confirmation today, especially the family and friends of the Confirmation Candidates.

It is also a great pleasure to welcome our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. John McDowell.

As a Christian family it is a real joy to join with, and to support, those who seek to confirm their baptismal vows, and commit their lives to Christ.

Please pray for:

BULLION, Gavin	GRAHAM, Millie
DICKSON, Niall	HAMBLY, Tadgh
ELLIOTT, Rhys	MILLER, Jamie

as they come today for Confirmation.

ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN VOLUNTARIES

OPENING HYMN

366

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored,
forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour
to his people in distress;
praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless:
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him,
glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him,
widely as his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace.

*Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793 - 1847) altd.
Music: John Goss (1800 - 1880)*

THE BISHOP

THE GREETING

Christ is Risen!
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia !

Please be seated.

The bishop introduces the service with these words:

Brothers and sisters, we meet today to support and to pray for those who have been baptized and instructed in the Christian faith and who now intend, in the presence of God and of this congregation, to make the promises of their baptism their own.

At the heart of this Confirmation service are two distinct, yet related, acts of confirming.

First the candidates will profess their faith in Christ, confirming their desire to serve God throughout their lives, to turn to Christ and to renounce all evil.

Then, as bishop, I will lay my hand on them, praying that God's Spirit will confirm, strengthen and guide them as they strive, each day of their lives, to live up to the solemn commitment they will make today.

It is our privilege and joy as the people of God to hear the candidates' response to God's call and to renew our own baptismal commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ. It will be our responsibility to encourage the newly confirmed in their discipleship, so that the Christian family may be built up, recognizing the diverse gifts of all its members.

On this their Confirmation day, let us pray in silence for the candidates, so that, increasing in the Holy Spirit more and more, they may experience God's wisdom and love for ever.

PENITENCE

Let us affirm our trust in God's mercy, and confess that we need forgiveness.

A pause for reflection

Lord God, you created the world, and made us in your own image.

Forgive us when we turn away from you.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death.

Rescue us from slavery to sin.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord God, by your Spirit you restore us to fellowship with you and with one another.

Breathe your love and freedom into our lives.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The bishop says this absolution:

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

HYMN 693

Glory in the highest to the God of heaven!
Peace to all your people through the earth be given!
Mighty God and Father, thanks and praise we bring,
singing Alleluia to our heavenly King.

Jesus Christ is risen, God the Father's Son!
With the Holy Spirit, you are Lord alone!
Lamb once killed for sinners, all our guilt to bear,
show us now your mercy, now receive our prayer.

Christ the world's true Saviour, high and holy one,
seated now and reigning from your Father's throne:
Lord and God, we praise you! Highest heaven adores:
in the Father's glory, all the praise be yours!

Words: *Christopher Idle* (b.1938)
Music: *W.H. Ferguson* (1874-1950)

The bishop says
Let us pray.

Please sit or kneel. The congregation may pray silently.

THE COLLECT for the Fourth Sunday of Easter.

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
Raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

THE COLLECT for Confirmation

Heavenly Father,
by water and the Holy Spirit
you give your faithful people new life:
Guide and strengthen us by that 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 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

PSALM 23: (SUNG)

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
his goodness restores my soul.
And I will trust in you alone.
And I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,
and he anoints my head with oil,
and my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

Refrain

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
for you are with me, and your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.

Refrain

Stuart Townend (b. 1963)
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THE EPISTLE READING - REVELATION 7: 9-17

Read by: Helen Elliott

*A reading from the Book of Revelation, chapter 7,
beginning to read at verse 9.*

⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice:

‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’

¹¹ All the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, ¹² saying:

‘Amen!

Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honour
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.

Amen!’

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, ‘These in white robes – who are they, and where did they come from?’

¹⁴ I answered, ‘Sir, you know.’

And he said, ‘These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore,

‘they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne
will shelter them with his presence.

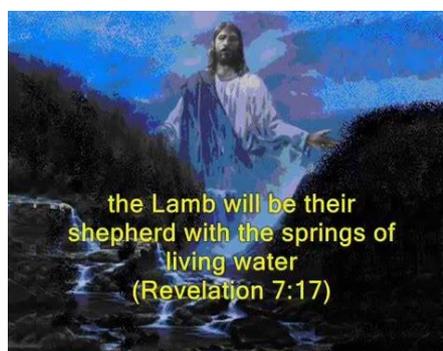
¹⁶ “Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.

The sun will not beat down on them,”
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb at the centre of the throne
will be their shepherd;

“he will lead them to springs of living water.”

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”



*This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.*

**GRADUAL HYMN
S102**

My Jesus, my Saviour,
Lord, there is none like you.
All of my days
I want to praise
the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
tower of refuge and strength,
let every breath,
all that I am,
never cease to worship you.

*Shout to the Lord,
all the earth, let us sing
power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
at the sound of your name.
I sing for joy
at the work of your hands.
For ever I'll love you, for ever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in you.*

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Please remain standing for the Gospel reading

[sung Acclamations]

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 5: 1-16

Read by: Naomi Kells.

*Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to St. Matthew, chapter 5,
beginning to read at verse 1.*

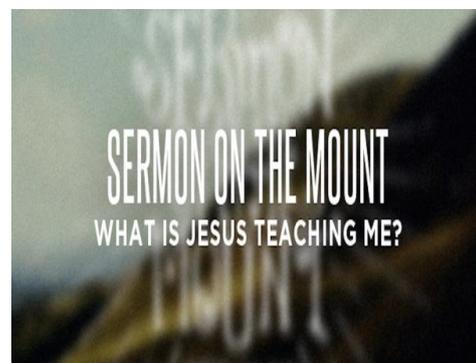
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them.

He said:

³ 'Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.



⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ 'Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

¹³ 'You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ 'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

[sung Acclamations]

THE SERMON

The Rt. Rev. F. J. McDowell,

Bishop of Clogher

HYMN S64

1.

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

2.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

3.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

*Stuart Townend & Keith Getty Copyright
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THE PRESENTATION

*The candidates, along with their Parents and Godparents, all stand.
The congregation may be seated.*

The bishop asks

Who presents these persons for confirmation?

The Parents and Godparents respond

We do.

The Parents and Godparents may be seated.

The bishop asks the candidates

Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the

Holy Spirit?

I have.

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

I am.

The bishop asks the clergy who have been responsible for pastoral care of the candidates

Have these persons been carefully prepared in their understanding of the Christian faith?

I believe they have.

THE DECISION

The bishop says to the candidates

In baptism, God calls us from darkness to his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all proud rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life?

I come to Christ.

The bishop says to the congregation

You have heard these our brothers and sisters respond to Christ.

Will you support them in this calling?

The congregation answers

We will support them.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

The bishop asks the candidates individually

Do you believe and accept the Christian faith into which you are baptized?

I do.

All stand. The bishop addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with these candidates the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

THE CONFIRMATION

The bishop says

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.



Blessed be the name of the Lord
now, and for ever. Amen.

Silence

The bishop prays the confirmation prayer

Almighty and everliving God,

whose Son Jesus Christ was crucified

and rose again to break the power of sin and death:

We give you thanks and praise for the gift of your Holy Spirit by whom your servants have been born again and made your children.

Grant that in the power of the same Holy Spirit they may continue to grow in the knowledge and likeness of Christ;

increase in them your gracious gifts, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and inward strength, the spirit of knowledge and godly living; and fill them, O Lord, with the spirit of reverence for you.

*Those who are to be confirmed kneel before the bishop,
who lays a hand upon each of them saying*

Confirm , O Lord, with your heavenly grace,
that *he/she* may continue to be yours for ever,
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more
until *he/she* comes to your eternal kingdom.
And each one of them answers Amen.



The bishop continues

Heavenly Father,

we pray for your servants upon whom we have now laid our hands, after the example of the apostles, to assure them by this sign of your favour towards them.

May your fatherly hand ever be over them.

Let your Holy Spirit ever be with them.

Lead them to know and obey your word, and keep them in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The congregation responds Amen.

THE COMMISSION

The bishop uses this commission:

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

All stand.

THE PEACE

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us
and, as a pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.



The candidates will be presented with the gift of a bible, on behalf of the Rector and parishioners.

OFFERTORY HYMN 429

(Collection in aid of the Clogher Diocesan Ministry Fund)

1.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
you are one with us,
Mary's son
cleansing our souls from all their sin,
pouring your love and goodness in;
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
living Lord.

2.

Lord Jesus Christ,
now and every day
teach us how to pray,
Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
this, in remembrance, Lord of you;
into our lives your power breaks
through,
living Lord.

3.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come to us,
born as one of us,
Mary's son -
led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free;
living Lord Jesus, help us see
you are Lord.

4.

Lord Jesus Christ,
we would come to you,
live our lives for you,
Son of God;
all your commands we know are true;
your many gifts will make us new;
into our lives your power breaks
through, living Lord.

Words and Music: *Patrick Appleford (b.1925)*

CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

**Lord, yours is the greatness
and the power and the glory
and the victory and the majesty;
for all things come from you
and of your own we give you.** *1 Chronicles 29: 11, 14*

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us
therefore let us celebrate the feast.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Father, almighty and everliving God,
at all times and in all places
it is right to give you thanks and praise:

Because by water and the Holy Spirit
you have made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord;
raised us to new life in him

and renewed in us the image of your glory,
And so with all your people,
with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,

for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed are you, Father,
the creator and sustainer of all things;
you made us in your own image,
male and female you created us;
even when we turned away from you,
you never ceased to care for us,
but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin,
giving your only begotten Son to become man
and suffer death on the cross to redeem us;
he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world:
he instituted,
and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue,
a perpetual memory of his precious death
until he comes again:

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat,
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you,
for this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we do as Christ your Son commanded:
**we remember his passion and death,
we celebrate his resurrection and ascension,
and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts,
grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit
that we may be made one in your holy Church
and partakers of the body and blood of your Son,
that he may dwell in us and we in him:

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
**all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold 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.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
**We being many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

THE COMMUNION

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Remember that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The Bishop, and Assistants receive communion, followed by the Confirmation candidates. Members of the congregation who wish to receive communion, please follow the directions of the stewards.

*The minister who gives the bread and wine says
The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.
and the communicant replies: **Amen.***

All baptised Christians, who are communicant members of their own tradition, are welcome at the Lord's table. Children and adults who have not yet been confirmed are welcome, and encouraged, to come to receive a blessing.

THE GREAT SILENCE

When all have received the communion, the Bishop, other ministers and people keep silence for reflection.

GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of mercy,
By whose grace alone we are accepted
And equipped for your service:
Stir up in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit
And make us worthy of our calling;
That we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
In love and joy and peace;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

All say

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN 593

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my Friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway,
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will.
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control:
O speak and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory,
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy foot-marks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to duly follow
is in thy strength alone.
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.

Words: *John E. Bode (1816-74)*
Music: *W.H. Ferguson (1874-1950)*

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen

CONFIRMATION

1. What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the rite at which those who have been baptised seek the blessing of the Holy Spirit for their growth as Christians. The confirmation candidates first confirm the promises of their baptism. Then the bishop lays hands on them, praying that God's Spirit will confirm, strengthen and guide them to live out their faith in their everyday lives.

2. Why Confirmation?

As children we often adopt our parents' beliefs and practices but as we grow older we develop our own opinions and beliefs. This is part of the transition into adulthood, which is marked by many different stages – moving to secondary school, becoming a teenager, wanting to choose our own styles of clothes and music. In the Christian faith there is also a stage of transition when young people may feel that they want to make their own declaration of faith and commit their life to Christ. This transition is normally marked by confirmation. It is a service in which the young people confirm for themselves, and publicly before family, friends and the wider Church, the promises made on their behalf at their baptism. However, confirmation is not just something for teenagers but can take place whenever an individual desires to make a faith commitment. Sometimes young people come before they reach their teens and others come as adults.

3. What happens at Confirmation?

The candidates renew their baptismal vows before the bishop; and as in baptism, the congregation is asked to support the candidates in their life of faith. The bishop then asks each candidate by name, *'Do you ... believe and accept the Christian faith into which you are baptized?'*

The candidates then affirm their faith, together with the congregation, in the words of the Apostles' Creed. After this, they kneel before the bishop, who lays hands on each one, praying,

*'Confirm ... O Lord, with your heavenly grace, that he/she may continue to be yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until he/she comes to your eternal kingdom.
Amen.'*

4. How is Confirmation related to Holy Communion?

Holy Communion or Eucharist is when Christians draw especially close to God. In some parts of the Anglican Communion individuals who have been baptised do not have to be 'confirmed' to receive Holy Communion. In the Church of Ireland, admission to Holy Communion has usually presupposed confirmation.

5. What happens after Confirmation?

By making a public affirmation of faith the candidates take responsibility for themselves as members of Christ's Church. When the bishop asks, *'Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?'* and *'Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?'*, the candidates respond, *'With the help of God, I will'*. This demonstrates both their commitment and their recognition of their dependence on God to live a Christian life.

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Confirmation

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