

The Church of Ireland ~ Diocese of Clogher



**Service of
Confirmation
and
Holy Communion**

Sunday 12th March 2023 at 10.30am.

The Third Sunday in Lent



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 have our Bishop with us, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian Ellis, B.Th. B. Sc. P.G.C.E. Ed.D.,

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:

Nicholas Armstrong	Jessica Kingston
Timothy Armstrong	Charlie Lynn
Evan Clarke	Jamie Lynn
Connor Coalter	Nathan Millar
Harry Coulter	Cody Morton
Wayne Coulter	Thomas McNiece
Alfie Graham	Calum Pauley
Méabh Hambly	Aimee Turner
Charles Johnston	Natalie Turner
Louie Johnston	Andries Ferreira (Garrison Parish)

as they come today for Confirmation.

ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN VOLUNTARIES

Processional 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 the 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.

The Gathering of God's People

THE BISHOP

THE GREETING

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all
and also with you.

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 baptised 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.**

The bishop says
Let us pray.

Please sit or kneel. The congregation may pray silently.

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

THE EPISTLE READING -

PHILIPPIANS 4: 4-9

Read by: Charlie Johnston.

*A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians, chapter 4,
beginning to read at verse 4.*

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Dedication of a Gift of a Baptismal Ewer,
in memory of Rebecca JOHNSTON***

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Bishop says:

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,
for you sent your Son Jesus Christ

to baptise in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As you sent a dove at his own baptism, so may your spirit descend on us today
and so that, through him, we might also become
a light to lighten all nations.

Blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Ewer is presented by the Johnston family, using these words:

Bishop, we ask you to receive this gift in memory of Rebecca,
and dedicate it to the glory of God.

The Bishop Responds:

On behalf of this Parish, may I thank you for this gift.
In the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ,
I dedicate this Baptismal Ewer in memory of Rebecca,
and to the glory of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Water from the Ewer is poured into the font:

God of all consolation,
You are always more ready to hear than we are to pray;
As we remember those whom we love but no longer see,
may all who are baptised here know the consolation that their prayers are heard in
heaven. **Amen**

Gradual Hymn 655

1. Loving Shepherd of your sheep,
keep your lamb, in safety keep;
nothing can your power withstand,
none can pluck me from your
hand.
2. Loving Lord, you chose to give
your own life that we might live;
and your hands outstretched to
bless
bear the cruel nails' impress.
3. Help me praise you every day,
gladly serve you and obey;
like your glorious ones above,
happy in your precious love.
4. Loving Shepherd ever near,
teach your lamb your voice to
hear;
let my footsteps never stray
from the straight and narrow way.
5. Where you lead me I will go,
walking in your steps below;
till, before my Father's throne,
I shall know as I am known.

Jane E. Leeson (1809 – 81)

Please remain standing for the Gospel reading

[sung Acclamations]

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 4: 18-22

Read by: Aimee Turner.

*Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to St. Matthew,
chapter 4, beginning to read at verse 18.*

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' At once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

[sung Acclamations]

THE SERMON

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian Ellis,

Bishop of Clogher

THE PRESENTATION

*The candidates, along with their Parents and Sponsors, 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 baptised 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 parishioners.*

Offertory Hymn 605

1. Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be know,
will you let my life be grown,
in you and you in me?

2. Will you leave your self behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me.

4. Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me ?

5. Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Words: *John J. Bell* (b.1949)
Graham Maule (b. 1958)

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,

forever 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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,
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.

*The minister who gives the bread says
The body of Christ given 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
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.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN 593

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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 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.**

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 baptised?'*

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.

Quotations from The Book of Common Prayer 2004, © The Representative Church Body, of the Church of Ireland, 2004

The above information copyright © 2007 APCK, Church of Ireland House, Dublin 6



Confirmation

Material in this service from *The Book of Common Prayer* copyright © RCB 2004
Hymns reproduced under CCLI Copyright Licence Nos. 1293640, 1293657