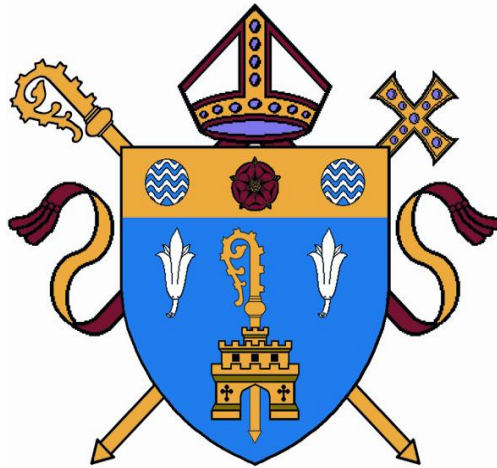


CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



Guidance for the Catholic Diocese of Lancaster

Effective: 26 January 2016

Introduction

The following pages include the revised Rite (and texts) of Confirmation with guidelines and instructions for its celebration in the Diocese of Lancaster. These guidelines and resources are intended to assist priests, catechists, confirmation candidates, servers, liturgical planning teams, and the entire parish community in fulfilling their pastoral responsibility in celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Everyone needs to keep in mind that the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is a time of special grace for those being confirmed and for the wider Church. The entire focus should be upon Confirmation as a Sacrament, a liturgical action of the Church. Confirmation is not a “graduation” or “presentation” ceremony, and those elements must be carefully avoided in preparing the Liturgy.

This document acknowledges that whatever takes place within a liturgy at which the Bishop presides is presumed by the faithful to represent his ideal and a model for others. The following are the guidelines, therefore, that I would wish to be observed in our Diocese of Lancaster.

Section I: General Instructions

1. Candidates for Confirmation: The Bishop's visit to the parish is to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on school-aged children and young people, and unless otherwise determined, on the adult candidates of the parish. Candidates should be adequately prepared in order to appreciate the meaning and consequence of the sacrament they are to receive.

Adults in the *RCIA* process baptised at Easter are to be confirmed by the delegated presiding priest as part of the Easter Vigil liturgy.

2. Parish Participation: The catechetical and pastoral preparation should in some way include the entire parish community and not merely the candidates for Confirmation (Rite of Confirmation #3). The parish community needs to be made aware that some of its members are preparing to celebrate Confirmation. This may be through:

- announcements through the bulletin, parish newsletters, letters from the parish priest.
- preaching on Sundays during the Easter season and throughout the year;
- parish prayer including Intercessions for the candidates in the Prayer of the Faithful on Sundays prior to and following the Confirmation celebration;
- liturgies presenting the Candidates to the Parish Community;
- testimonies of commitment;
- parish prayer partners.

3. Sponsors: "Pastors will see that the sponsor is spiritually qualified for the office" (RC, #6). The sponsor for any candidate may be male or female, is to be sufficiently mature, (at least 16 years of age), a fully initiated Catholic and living a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken, and is not prohibited by Canon Law from exercising the role of sponsor. A parent may not act as a sponsor for their own child (Canon 874). A Baptismal sponsor is not only allowed, but is in fact desired as the Confirmation sponsor, in order to emphasise the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation (Canon 893.2).

Individuals selected as sponsors must be Catholics who are able to receive the Sacraments of the Church. Sponsors are expected to receive Holy Communion at the Mass of Confirmation.

4. Names: The Confirmation name must be the name of a recognized saint (*i.e.* St John, St Martha, St Teresa, St John Paul) or an acceptable recognized Christian name (such as Faith, Charity, Prudence). Individual catechists must guide their students in the selection of a Confirmation name, and those names are to be approved in advance. Only full names are to be used and not shortened names.

5. Attire for Candidates: Candidates should dress appropriately and modestly befitting the solemnity of the Confirmation liturgy.

6. Bishop's Parking: A place should be reserved for the Bishop's car near the Presbytery and clearly marked. It is requested that the Bishop's office be notified in advance where the reserved parking space will be located.

7. Rehearsal: A rehearsal for all liturgical ministers, the Confirmation candidates and their sponsors which helps ensure familiarity with the movement and rite of Confirmation, is strongly recommended. The rehearsal must include at the least the following:

- Walking through the entire Confirmation Rite;
- Making the responses to the renewal of baptismal promises bold and audible.
- Speaking the Confirmation name loudly and clearly;
- Responding the "Amen" and "And with your spirit" in the Rite;
- Practicing all of the music to be sung by the Confirmation group and the Assembly.

8. Booklet: The Booklet should provide only those aids to active participation on this special occasion, postures and responses (with songs) within the rite of Confirmation.

The liturgical booklet should include all the music sung by the assembly, except for that music which is readily known, e.g., the traditional chant to the Lord's Prayer.

The draft booklet should be sent to the Bishop's Office for approval at least two weeks prior to the Confirmation.

9. Music: Music within the tradition that speaks of our Baptismal dignity, the Paschal Mystery, our call to Christian witness, and empowerment in the Holy Spirit is most appropriate. It should be kept in mind that Confirmation "seals" the baptismal experience and hence should be seen intimately linked to an overall theology of initiation in which the Spirit is at work both in Baptism and Confirmation. Music should be selected to highlight those parts of the liturgical rite that are more significant: e.g., Word, the Rite of Confirmation, and the Eucharist.

10. Prelude Music: Prior to the liturgy and while the candidates are being seated, instrumental or choral music may accompany this action in order to create an atmosphere that is both festive and reverent. Organ music is particularly suitable. The ringing of the Church bell may also be appropriate.

11. Introductory Rites: The Entrance Chant should create an atmosphere of the praise of God and of celebration. A chant or hymn invoking the Holy Spirit is most

appropriate (the hymn “**Come Holy Ghost**” is particularly so). It is appropriate during the Easter season to select chants or hymns that reflect the nature of this liturgical season. The Gloria should be included – and preferably be sung.

12. Liturgy of the Word: Within the Liturgy of the Word, the Responsorial Psalm (or Gradual) and Gospel Acclamation should certainly be sung.

13. Liturgy of the Eucharist: The offertory chant or a hymn is appropriate during the Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts. The acclamations of the Eucharistic prayer should be rendered musically. The Lord's Prayer need not be sung; however, if sung, the melody should be familiar to all. The Lamb of God is a litany which accompanies the Fraction of the Host, thus the invocation and response may be repeated as long as the action demands. The Communion Chant or a communion hymn should be sung.

Section II: Confirmation Liturgy

1. General Preparation: The Confirmation liturgy demands careful preparation by a team that should include parish priests, deacons, Confirmation catechists who have worked with the candidates, some of the candidates themselves, members of the liturgy committee and musicians.

The Confirmation Liturgy has its own structure: the Liturgy of the Word, the Rite of Confirmation and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Its integrity must be maintained. Care is taken to allow the Word and the symbolic action of these primary parts of the celebration to stand out, unencumbered by extraneous words or peripheral signs and symbols. The following are specific liturgical points regarding the celebration of Confirmation:

2. Symbols: The primary symbols inherent to the liturgy itself need to be given careful attention, i.e., the Chrism, the book of Scripture, the bread and wine, and the assembly. These symbols are most effective when allowed to be authentic forms of ritual expression without added words of explanation.

- **Chrism:** "When (those baptized) are anointed with this holy oil and made the temples of your glory...Let this be indeed the Chrism of salvation for those who will be born again of water and the Holy Spirit." (Roman Missal Sacramentary, Consecration of the Chrism, n. 25). The Bishop will normally use the Chrism of the Parish and it may be carried in the Entrance Procession. In order that the fullness of the sacramental signs may be evident, the Chrism is not to be wiped off the foreheads of the newly confirmed.

3. Scripture Readings and Roman Missal Sacramentary Prayers: The Ritual for Confirmation states that the Readings may be taken from the Mass of the Day or from texts in the Lectionary (Nos. 763-767 – as below).

SCRIPTURE READINGS

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

- **Isaiah 11:1-4a**

On him the spirit of the Lord rests.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse... (4) for the poor of the land.

▪ **Isaiah 42:1-3**

I have endowed my servant with my spirit.

The Lord says this: 'Here is my servant...

▪ **Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9**

The Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor and to give the oil of gladness.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me... (3) ...for despondency, praise. (6) ...they will call you 'ministers of our God'. (8) I will reward them faithfully.

▪ **Ezekiel 36:24-28**

I shall put my spirit in you.

The Lord says this: I am going to take you from among the nations.

▪ **Joel 2:23a, 26-30a (Hebrew 2:23a; 3:1-3a)**

Even on slaves, men and women, will I pour out my Spirit.

Sons of Zion, be glad, rejoice in the Lord your God. You will eat to your heart's content... (30) and on earth.

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

▪ **Acts 1:3-8**

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes, and then you will be my witness.

Jesus had shown himself alive to the apostles after his Passion...

▪ **Acts 2:1-6, 14, 22b-23, 32-33**

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak.

When Pentecost day came round... (22) ...Jesus the Nazarene.

▪ **Acts 8:1, 4, 14-17**

They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

A bitter persecution started...

▪ **Acts 10:1, 33-34a, 37-44**

The Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners.

One of the centurions of the Italica cohort stationed in Caesarea... (33) He said to Peter, 'I sent for you... (34) Then Peter addressed them:

▪ **Acts 19:1b-6a**

Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?

Paul made his way overland as far as Ephesus... (6) ...came down on them.

▪ **Romans 5:1-2, 5-8**

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged and at peace with God...

▪ **Romans 8:14-17**

*The Spirit himself and our spirit bear witness that we are children of God,
Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God...*

▪ **Romans 8:26-27**

*The Spirit expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words.
The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness...*

▪ **1 Corinthians 12:4-13**

One and the same Spirit who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

There is a variety of gifts, but always the same Spirit...

▪ **Galatians 5:16-17, 22-23a, 24-25**

Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

If you are guided by the Spirit... (23) ...self-control.

▪ **Ephesians 1:3a, 4a, 13-19a**

You have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (4) Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ. (13) Now you too, in him... (19) ...for us believers.

▪ **Ephesians 4:1-6**

One Body, one Spirit, one baptism.

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you...

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

▪ **Psalm 21 (22):23-24, 26-27, 28 and 31-32**

R. (23): I will tell your name to my brethren.

or: (John 15:26-27): When the Advocate comes, you will be my witnesses.

▪ **Psalm 22 (23):1-3a, 3b-4, 5-6**

R. (1): The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

▪ **Psalm 95 (96):1-2a, 2b-3, 9-10a, 11-12**

R. (3): Proclaim the wonders of the Lord
among all the peoples.

▪ **Psalm 103 (104):1ab and 24, 27-28, 30-31, 33-34**

R. (30): Send forth your spirit, O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth.

▪ **Psalm 116 (117):1, 2**

R. (Acts 1:8): You will be my witness to the ends of the earth.

or: Alleluia.

▪ **Psalm 144 (145):2-3, 4-5, 8-9, 10-11, 15-16, 21**

R. (1b): I will bless your name for ever, O Lord.

ALLELUIA VERSES AND VERSES BEFORE THE GOSPEL

- **John 14:16**

The Father will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever, says the Lord.

- **John 15:26b, 27a**

The Spirit of truth will be my witness,
and you too will be witnesses,
says the Lord.

- **John 16:13a; 14: 26b**

When the Spirit of truth comes
he will lead you to the complete truth;
and he will remind you of all I have said to you.

- **Revelation 1:5a, 6**

You are the faithful witness, O Christ,
the First-born from the dead;
you have made us a line of kings,
priests to serve our God and Father.

- Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

- Holy Spirit, Lord of Light,
from the clear celestial height,
thy pure beaming radiance give.

GOSPEL READINGS

- **Matthew 5:1-12a**

Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Seeing the crowds. Jesus... (12) ...will be great in heaven.

- **Matthew 16:24-27**

If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself.

Jesus said to his disciples...

- **Matthew 25:14-30**

You have shown you can be faithful in small things, come and join in your master's happiness.

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'A man on his way abroad...

- **Mark 1:9-11**

He saw the Spirit descending on him.

Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee...

- **Luke 4:16-22a**

The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

Jesus came to Nazara... (22) ...from his lips.

▪ **Luke 8:4-10a, 11b-15**

As for the part in the rich soil, this is people who take the word to themselves and yield a harvest through perseverance.

With a large crowd gathering and people from every town finding their way to him, Jesus used this parable... (10) and he said, (11) 'The seed is the word of God...

▪ **Luke 10:21-24**

I bless you, Father, for revealing these things to mere children.

Filled with joy by the Holy Spirit, Jesus said...

▪ **John 7:37b-39**

Fountains of living water shall flow.

Jesus cried out: If any man is thirsty...

▪ **John 14:15-17**

The Spirit of truth is with you.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me...

▪ **John 14:23-26**

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If anyone loves me...

▪ **John 15:18-21, 26-27**

The Spirit of truth who issues from the Father, he will be my witness,

Jesus said to his disciples: If the world hates you...

▪ **John 16:5b-7, 12-13a (Greek 5-7, 12-13a)**

The Spirit of truth will lead you to the complete truth.

Jesus said to his disciples: Now I am going to the one who sent me... (13) ...the complete truth.

When Confirmation is celebrated on a Sunday Vigil, Sunday, Feast or Solemnity, the ENTIRE READINGS and PRAYERS for THAT DAY MUST BE USED.

If Confirmation is celebrated on a weekday, either the readings for that day or alternate readings for Confirmation may be chosen. If Confirmation is celebrated on a weekday, the PRAYERS from the Ritual of Confirmation will be chosen unless occurring on a Feast or Solemnity of the Church.

Although all the Readings for Confirmation from the Lectionary (Nos. 763-767) may be used as indicated above, all of the daily Easter season Readings are most appropriate for the Confirmation liturgy. (If alternate Readings are requested, the Bishop must be approached prior to the Confirmation.)

4. Choosing Ministers: Those selected for various ministries within the Confirmation liturgy should be individuals who are prepared and who regularly serve in this capacity for the community.

Confirmation candidates should not, as a rule, perform ministries during the Confirmation Mass.

- **Readers:** While it may seem desirable to include Confirmation candidates as proclaimers of the Word, it is more effective to encourage their full participation in other ways. Freed from the anxiety of reading well or being in the right place at the right time, candidates are better able to reflect on the importance and meaning of the celebration and even feel supported by the witness of adult members who serve as readers. Whether assigned to the parish lectors or to one of the Confirmation candidates fully trained as a lector, the Scriptures must be proclaimed with dignity and clarity.
- **Altar Servers:** According to present Church directives, a minimum of six trained servers are desirable for the Confirmation liturgy: an incense bearer (optional), a cross bearer, two candle bearers, a mitre bearer and a crozier bearer.
- **Deacon:** The participation of a deacon (permanent or transitional) is desirable. The Deacon serves as a minister to the Bishop, proclaims the Gospel and assists the Bishop as the rubrics specify.

SACRISTY PREPARATION:

The sacristan should attend to the following details:

1. Vestments: For Sunday Vigil, Sunday and Solemnity Masses (excluding Pentecost) in which Confirmation is celebrated during the Easter Season, WHITE vestments are to be worn. When Confirmation is celebrated during weekdays, RED or WHITE VESTMENTS MAY BE WORN.

2. Presider's Chair: The Presidential chair for the Bishop is to be located in a place that is visible to the entire assembly. **This does not have to be in front of the altar but can be at the side provided that it is highly visible.** Placing the chair in front of the altar throughout the Mass obscures the centrality of the altar and the sacrifice. So that the Anointing at Confirmation is still visible and not blocked by the altar etc it may be necessary to move the Presidential chair so that it is still highly visible during the Confirmation Rite itself. Chairs for concelebrating priests may be set in the sanctuary, but preferably not on either side of the Bishop.

If there is a deacon, he is to be seated to the right of the Bishop and slightly set back. A chair should be provided for the Bishop's Secretary who acts as Master of Ceremonies at most liturgies presided by the Bishop. This chair should be positioned near the servers.

3. Microphone: A standing microphone should be in place at the Presider's chair with a cord sufficiently long to extend to the first pews of the assembly. If the parish is equipped with wireless microphones, then one of these should be available for the Bishop in the place in which he is to vest.

4. Ritual Books: *The following should be set up before the Liturgy begins:*

- **Lectionary:** The Lectionary should be in place on the ambo before the Mass begins.
- **Book of the Gospels:** If used, it is carried by the deacon and is placed upon the altar.
- **Roman Missal:** Please refer to Part II, section 3 for proper set up of the texts. (Note: the Bishop will provide the Roman Pontifical for the Rite of Confirmation.)

5. Credence Table: A large credence table is necessary, holding:

- corporal for the altar;
- chalice (veiled) and purificator for the Bishop;
- extra chalices with purificators for the assembly's Communion.
- cruet of water;
- a gremial veil or an amice to cover the bishops vestments during the anointing;
- one lemon, quartered, and a towel for the Bishop; bread is not needed, for the washing of the Bishop's hands;
- pitcher of water, bowl and three towels to wash the Bishops hands thrice (after the Anointing, and during the offertory, and after Communion).

6. Table for the Gifts: The table is located in the nave of the Church. One or two large ciboria with a sufficient number of hosts, and a flagon or flagons of wine sufficient for all who will be receiving Communion.

Section III: Liturgy, Order of Celebration

The Confirmation Candidates and Sponsors should be in their designated places in the pews prior to the scheduled time so that the ceremony is able to begin promptly.

Order of Procession

1. Incense Bearer (optional)
2. Server with Candle Cross Bearer Server with Candle
3. Deacon with Book of Gospels (if available)
4. Concelebrating Priests
5. Bishop
6. Crozier Bearer and Mitre Bearer

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance or Gathering Song: The Entrance chant accompanies the procession through the church **and should be prolonged to cover the incensation.** **If singing has stopped the organ (or other instruments) should continue to play.**

Gloria: It is preferred that the Gloria be sung rather than recited.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel: A Priest or Deacon proclaims the Gospel; if a Deacon is not available, one of the Priests proclaims the Gospel. Incensation of the Book normally takes place. The priest or deacon receives a blessing from the Bishop while the Bishop is seated. The Gospel book is brought back to the Bishop for reverencing after the proclamation of the Gospel has been completed. All remain standing until the Bishop has revered the Gospel book. The Bishop may then occasionally bless the faithful with the book after which it is placed upon the credence table.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Presentation of the Candidates:

Immediately after the Gospel, before the homily, the Parish Priest presents the candidates for Confirmation in these or similar words:

Bishop N, the parish community of **St N** wishes to present to you its young people who have prepared and are ready to receive the fullness of Christian Initiation in the

Sacrament of Confirmation. Each candidate has been well instructed and is accompanied by a sponsor. It is my privilege to present them to you at this time. I invite the candidates for Confirmation to please stand as you hear your name called.

The Confirmation candidates remain standing until the Bishop invites them to be seated.

The Bishop will then give the homily.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

After the homily, ONLY THE CANDIDATES TO BE CONFIRMED STAND and renew their Baptismal Promises in a voice to be heard by all.

The Bishop leads the renewal with the following form:

Do you renounce Satan, and all his works and empty promises?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who today through the Sacrament of Confirmation is given to you in a special way just as he was given to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe in the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Candidates: I do.

The Bishop gives his assent to the profession by proclaiming the faith of the Church:

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.

We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The gathering of the faithful gives its assent by replying: Amen.

[NOTE: It is not necessary to print the Baptismal Promises in the Mass booklet.]

The Laying on of Hands

During the Imposition of Hands the CANDIDATES ONLY WILL KNEEL. The Bishop stands facing the candidates and addresses the assembly in these words:

Dearly beloved,
let us pray to God the almighty Father,
for these, his adopted sons and daughters,

already born again to eternal life in Baptism,
that he will graciously pour out the Holy Spirit upon them
to confirm them with his abundant gifts,
and through his anointing
conform them more fully to Christ, the Son of God.

And all pray in silence for a while.

Then the Bishop lays hands over all those to be confirmed (as do the Priests who are associated with him, both concelebrants and those in choir). But the Bishop alone says:

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who brought these your servants to new birth
by water and the Holy Spirit,
freeing them from sin:
send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete;
give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and fortitude,
the spirit of knowledge and piety;
fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.
Through Christ our Lord.
Assembly: AMEN!

[NOTE: It is not necessary to print these two prayers in the Mass booklet.]

The Anointing with Chrism

*The Bishop sits and the gremial veil should be placed on his knees. The candidates approach the Bishop one by one, with their sponsors (and families). The candidates **kneel** for the anointing. The sponsor places his/her right hand on the shoulder of the candidate. The candidate should state his/her Confirmation name loudly and clearly to the Bishop. Candidates should likewise be rehearsed to speak their "Amen" and "And with your spirit" in an audible voice. Care should be taken to keep the procession moving toward the site of anointing in a respectful pace, without undue delay.*

The Bishop dips his right thumb in the Chrism and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed using this formula:

*Bishop: N be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.
Candidate: Amen!*

*Bishop: Peace be with you.
Candidate: And with your spirit.*

The procession of candidates and sponsors to the Bishop should be planned allowing the assembly maximum visibility of the Rite, e.g., the candidates and sponsors might process up the side aisles and return down the centre aisle. The newly confirmed and their sponsors should be seated upon returning to their places.

The oil is left on the forehead of the candidate.

After the last person has been confirmed, two acolytes approach the Bishop with the pitcher of water, bowl, lemon and towel. At this time, those who will proclaim the General Intercessions should approach the ambo and be in place.

Profession of Faith: *The Profession of Faith is omitted, since it has already been proclaimed in the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.*

General Intercessions: *The Prayers should include intercessions for the Church, civil authorities, those in need, and the needs of the local community related to the celebration. There should be no more than five petitions.*

Bishop:

My dear brothers and sisters,
let us humbly pray to God the almighty Father
and be of one mind in our prayer,
just as faith, hope and charity,
which proceed from his Holy Spirit, are one.

Deacon or reader:

For these his servants,
whom the gift of the Holy Spirit has confirmed:
that, planted in faith and grounded in love,
they may bear witness to Christ the Lord by their way of life,
let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Deacon or reader:

For their parents and sponsors:
that by word and example
they may continue to encourage
those whom they have sponsored in the faith
to follow in the footsteps of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Deacon or reader:

For the holy Church of God
together with N. our Pope, N. our Bishop and all the Bishops:
that, gathered by the Holy Spirit,
the Church may grow and increase in unity of faith and love
until the coming of the Lord,
let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Deacon or reader:

For the whole world:
that all people, who have one Maker and Father,
may acknowledge one another as brothers and sisters,
without discrimination of race or nation,

and with sincere hearts seek the Kingdom of God,
which is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,
let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Bishop:

O God, who gave the Holy Spirit to your Apostles
and willed that through them and their successors
the same Spirit be handed on to the rest of the faithful,
listen favourably to our prayer,
and grant that your divine grace,
which was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed,
may now spread through the hearts of those who believe in you.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of the Gifts: It is appropriate that two or three of the newly-confirmed present the gifts of the people (bread, wine, optional gifts for the poor, collection) to the Bishop.

If there is a collection, the procession of gifts takes place following the collection. The Bishop will normally incense the altar and gifts.

Eucharistic Prayer: The decision about which Eucharist Prayer is chosen is reserved to the Bishop.

Communion: Sufficient hosts for the Mass should be consecrated so that hosts should not be taken from the tabernacle habitually. Distributing Communion under both the forms of bread and wine is normative. This presumes proper catechesis and familiarity with the ritual of receiving from the chalice. The common rule is that there be two ministers of the chalice to every one minister of the hosts.

Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are only to be used when there is an insufficient number of ordinary ministers (priests, deacons).

Silent Reflection: Sufficient quiet time should be planned after Communion. The use of this time solely for additional music or hymns is to be discouraged. If a meditation hymn is included, sufficient silent time should also be included.

CONCLUDING RITE

Announcements: If there are any announcements they should be brief and follow the Prayer after Communion. Expressions of gratitude to all who have helped in the Confirmation process are more fittingly printed in the booklet, and not voiced during the liturgy unless they are very brief. **Presentation of certificates and appreciation of catechists should take place during the reception in the hall or parish centre afterwards and not during (or even at the conclusion of) the liturgy.**

Final Blessing: The Bishop will impart either the "Solemn Blessing" or the "Prayer over the People" from the Rite of Confirmation. The assembly will respond "Amen"

to the Blessing. It is worth practicing the responses of Amen to the solemn blessing with the candidates.

Recessional: The ministers leave in the order given for the processional, except that the thurible is not carried and the thurifer walks behind the acolytes.

+ michael Campbell OSA

+Michael G Campbell OSA

Bishop of Lancaster

Robert P Billing

Robert P Billing (Rev)

Bishop's Secretary