Archdiocese of Glasgow

# Sacrament of Confirmation

Leader's Notes

Parish Catechesis for Confirmation Candidates

# Contents


Lesson 1 – The Sacraments of Initiation 3

Lesson 2 – Baptised Priest, Prophet and King 8

Lesson 3 – The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit 11

Appendix A: Crossword – The Seven Sacraments 14

Appendix B: The Church Vocabulary 15

Appendix C: Picture of Pope, Archbishop etc. 17

Appendix D: Oil of Chrism Pictures 19

Appendix E: The Holy Spirit Guides the Church Worksheet 22

Appendix F: Baptismal and Laying of Hands prayers 23

Appendix G: Priest, Prophet, King titles and definitions 25

Appendix H: Priest, prophet and King Worksheet 26

Appendix I: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit Word search 27

Appendix J: Holy Spirit Scripture extracts 28

Appendix K: The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit Tree 29

# Session 1 – The Sacraments of Initiation

Required resources:

- ✓ Crossword (Appendix A)
- ✓ Labels for names
- ✓ Sacred space (see note below)
- ✓ CD player and quiet instrumental music (optional)
- ✓ Vocabulary for Church activity (Appendix B)
- ✓ Oil of Chrism, white garment, Holy Water sprinkler, Baptismal Font, Baptismal register
- ✓ Pictures of Archbishop, Pope, Priest etc. (Appendix C)
- ✓ Picture of the blessing of Chrism (Appendix D)

Create a sacred space in the room where the children can gather for prayer time. Perhaps you could have some Holy Spirit art work displayed along with the words to the prayer, 'Come Holy Spirit'.

## Welcome

You may wish to have quiet music playing in the background as the children enter the room. Welcome the children and invite them to take a name badge and crossword which they can complete while they wait for the others to arrive.

## Opening Prayer

Everyone should gather around the sacred space. The candle is lit, while a catechist says the following: This candle is a sign that God is with us. We turn to God in prayer.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Invite the children to close their eyes and be still.

Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

All say together:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful. Enkindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

## Input

In school you have been learning about the Seven Sacraments and your journey of initiation into the Church. In today's session we are going to:

- revise the sacraments of Initiation, specifically Baptism and Confirmation
- develop our understanding of the use of oil in the Sacraments
- explore what it means to become initiated into the Catholic Church

Use the crossword that the children have completed to recap what they have learned in school about the Seven Sacraments.

Explain to the pupils that today they are going to focus on the Sacraments of Initiation, specifically Baptism and Confirmation. Highlight the following points to the children:

- Initiation means becoming a member.
- Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion are the Sacraments of Initiation.
- These Sacraments are connected in a special way because they are about becoming a member of the Church Family.
- The Journey of Initiation is a journey through the three Sacraments towards full membership of the Church Family.
- The Journey of Initiation is a journey we make together and not on our own.

So what does it mean to be a member of the Church?

Think back to the scripture we read earlier. Before he ascended into Heaven, Jesus made a promise to his friends. He said: "I am with you always, yes, till the end of time" (Matthew 28:20)

Jesus' promise was not only for the Apostles but also for everyone who would become members of the Church. That includes you!

The small Christian communities that were formed after Pentecost gathered together regularly to pray and listen to the teachings of the Apostles. They were the Church and as the numbers increased some of their leaders took the Good News to other countries. Gradually the Church spread throughout the world.

Today we are the Church, the followers of Jesus. We have been given the same mission as the Apostles – to make the Good News of God's love known to all people. In the Church we all have a responsibility to help build God's Kingdom in our world. The Holy Spirit guides us and helps us.

Some people in the Church have special responsibilities. Jesus put his Church in the care of the Apostles, with Peter as their head. They were the leaders of the early Church and since then the Church has always had special leaders.

## Activity

Display the pictures of Pope Francis, Archbishop Nolan and pictures of the priest(s) of the parish and ask the children if they can name them and describe their role. Use this opportunity to explain the hierarchy of the Church. You could have the words Pope, Cardinal, Archbishop, Bishop, Priest, diocese, parish for the children to order or match as you discuss the words with them. Emphasise to the children that the Church is guided by the Holy Spirit.

## Input

At Baptism we are anointed with oil and identified as children of God. Discuss identity with the children. Points to consider:

- Family identity: character traits, similarities, share a surname, support one another, expected to behave a certain way
- School Identity: belonging to school community, similarities and differences, support one another, how do we behave, expectations
- Identity as a child of God – Church community, shared beliefs, support one another, because we believe in God we behave in a certain way – it can be seen in our actions and the way we treat others

Through the sacrament of Confirmation God confirms the gifts and life of faith that we received at Baptism through the Holy Spirit. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit which will help us on our journey towards holiness as a child of God, helping us to build God's Kingdom.

In small groups, give the pupils 3 minutes to write down ways in which they could build up God's kingdom at home, in school and in their parish community (3 suggestions for each). You should also write three suggestions. Give a point for each suggestion that matches your own. The group with the most points could win a sweet.

## Activity

Take the children to Church and gather around the Baptismal Font.

### Baptismal Font

Talk with the children about the Baptismal Font, the Holy Water and the Holy Water Sprinkler, which will be used near the beginning of the Confirmation ceremony. If possible, have available a baptismal robe and shawl.

The children might be asked to say what they think water represents and why it is used at Baptism (e.g. life, cleansing, freshness, washing, energy…)

Points to be highlighted:

- The Journey of Initiation begins at Baptism.

- Through Baptism, we are welcomed into the Church family.
- It's a special occasion so special clothes are worn by the baby. The white robe represents their dignity as God's children and the white cloth of Jesus' Resurrection.
- Just as all living things need water to grow, the baptismal water reminds us that after Baptism we begin to grow as members of God's Family.
- During the Confirmation ceremony the congregation will be sprinkled with holy water to remind everyone that the children's journey of initiation began at Baptism and is continuing at Confirmation.
- Remind the children that we are baptised "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" and that we remind ourselves of this every time we bless ourselves and make the sign of the Cross. This is especially true when we bless ourselves with holy water when we enter the church.
- Show the children the Baptismal Register and identify some of their names.

Invite the children to dip their fingers into the water and make the sign of the cross, as a reminder that they are baptised in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

## The Oil of Chrism

If possible, the priest could show the children the Oil of Chrism. He could explain how and why it is used at both Baptism and Confirmation.

If it is not possible for the priest to be there, other oil in a special container could be shown to the children to facilitate the discussion.

A good explanation of the scriptural origins and use of oil can be found at:

http://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/the-use-of-sacramental-oils.html

Points to be highlighted:

- The Oil of Chrism is consecrated at the Chrism Mass which takes place on Holy Thursday.
- On Holy Thursday morning, the bishop, joined by the priests of the diocese, gather at the Cathedral to celebrate the Chrism Mass. Here the bishop blesses three oils the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Infirm, and Holy Chrism which will be used in the celebration of the sacraments throughout the diocese for the year.
- The Oil of Chrism is used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders. Holy Chrism is a mixture of olive oil and balsam, an aromatic oil.

- The blessing of the Holy Chrism is different from that of the other oils. Here the bishop breathes over the vessel of chrism, a gesture which symbolizes both the Holy Spirit coming down to consecrate this oil, and the life-giving nature of the sacraments it is used in. Use the pictures provided to demonstrate this to the pupils (Appendix D)

- The anointing with chrism at Baptism – the Sign of the Cross on the head (as a sign that we are holy and belong to Jesus).

- The anointing with chrism at Confirmation – the Sign of the Cross on the forehead (as a sign that we are holy and called to live like Jesus).

- Jesus said that he had been "anointed" with the Holy Spirit. This is why we call him "Christ", meaning "anointed one", and why we call this holy oil "Chrism"

- When the Chrism and the Sign of the Cross are used for the anointing at Baptism and Confirmation, it means that we are special: we belong to Jesus' family, the Church Family and we have special work to do for God.

## Closing Prayer

Everyone should gather around the sacred space.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

The candle is lit while a catechist says the following:

As we light this candle we remember that we belong to the Church. We remember that Jesus Christ is our light, who is always with us. We are his followers.

Invite the pupils to be still and reflect on what they have learned in today's session.

God our Father, help us as we begin the final part of our Journey of Initiation.
Help us to prepare well to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end, Amen.

# Session 2 – Anointed Priest, Prophet and King

**Required resources:**

- ✓ The Holy Spirit Guides the Church Worksheet (Appendix E)
- ✓ Labels for names
- ✓ Prayers (Baptismal Prayer and Laying on of Hands) for display (Appendix F)
- ✓ Priest, prophet and king titles and definitions (Appendix G)
- ✓ Priest, prophet, king worksheet (Appendix H)
- ✓ Sacred space
- ✓ CD player and quiet instrumental music (optional)

## Welcome

You may wish to have quiet music playing in the background as the children enter the room. Welcome the children and invite them to take a name badge and 'The Holy Spirit Guides the Church' worksheet, which they can complete while they wait for the others to arrive.

## Opening Prayer

Everyone should gather around the sacred space. The candle is lit, while a catechist says the following: This candle is a sign that God is with us. We turn to God in prayer.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Invite the children to close their eyes and be still.

**Reading:** Acts 10: 34, 37-43

All say together:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful. Enkindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

## Input

In school you have been learning about Anointing and the titles Priest, Prophet and King. In today's session we are going to:

- ➢ explore what it means to be anointed

- find out more about the anointing that will take place at Confirmation
- discover how we can be priests, prophets and kings in our daily lives and specifically in our parish community

## Input

Anointing: In the Old Testament anointing a person with oil was a sign of the presence of the Spirit of God, giving the person the power to do some special and important work.

Priest, prophets and kings were anointed. Have the children retell any of the stories of priest, prophets and kings that they are familiar with.

Read aloud the words of the Baptismal Prayer. This can be printed on A3 paper and displayed for the children (Appendix F).

*The God of power and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin and brought you to new life through water and the Holy Spirit. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation, so that, united with his people you may remain for ever a member of Christ who is Priest, Prophet and King.*

At your Baptism you were anointed with the Oil of Chrism and at Confirmation you will be anointed with Chrism again. This is a sign that you are being given the gift of the Holy Spirit and that you have special work to do for God.

Focus on the last sentence of the prayer. Explain to the children that as they are anointed with the oil of Chrism they are 'sealed with the Holy Spirit' and they are marked forever as a child of God (they will have been learning about the indelible/permanent mark of the Sacrament in week 1 of their school lessons).

Reflect on the previous day's discussion about identity and specifically their identity as a child of God. The children will have been learning about the titles priest, prophet and king in week 2 of their school lessons. They will also have explored how they can live out those titles in their lives. Distribute the titles priest, prophet and king and their definitions and in small groups ask the pupils to match the title to its definition (Appendix G).

As you check the pupils' answers you could ask them to suggest one way they can live out that title in their parish.

## Input

Laying on of Hands: In the Old Testament the laying on of hands was also a sign that a person was being chosen specially to do God's work. It was a sign that the strength and love of God was being communicated through the person giving the blessing.

In Confirmation, the Bishop lays his hands over the group he is Confirming and says:

*All powerful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide.*

*Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgement and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence.*

*Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

Discuss the words of the prayer with the children. Do they recognise any of the words? The gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Explain to the children that we need the gifts of the Holy Spirit to strengthen us in living out the roles of priest, prophet and king and that we can, and should, regularly pray to the Holy Spirit to help us.

## Activity

Pupils complete the storyboard worksheet (Appendix H) depicting ways of being a priest, prophet and king in their own parish community. They should also note down the gifts of the Holy Spirit that will help them to be able to do this.

Take feedback from the pupils - maybe one example from each of their titles. Some of their storyboards could be displayed in the hall.

## Closing Prayer

Everyone should gather around the sacred space.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

The candle is lit while a catechist says the following: As we light this candle we remember that we belong to the Church. We remember that Jesus Christ is our light who is always with us. We are his followers.

Invite the pupils to be still and reflect on what they have learned in today's session.

Catechist: God our Loving Father, thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us. Help us to use our talents and gifts to serve our parish community. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end, Amen.

# Session 3 – Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

**Required resources:**

- ✓ Gifts of the Holy Spirit Word search (Appendix I)
- ✓ Labels for names
- ✓ Sacred space
- ✓ CD player and quiet instrumental music (optional)
- ✓ Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit on paper cut up in a basket/tub
- ✓ Tree of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit Image (Appendix K)
- ✓ Note paper/post it notes
- ✓ Scripture extracts: fire, wind, breath (Appendix J)
- ✓ Poster paper (A3) and pens

## Welcome

You may wish to have quiet music playing in the background as the children enter the room. Welcome the children and invite them to take a name badge and fruits of the Holy Spirit word search, which they can complete while they wait for the others to arrive.

## Opening Prayer

Everyone should gather around the sacred space. The candle is lit, while a catechist says the following: This candle is a sign that God is with us. We turn to God in prayer.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Invite the children to close their eyes and be still.

**Reading:** Pentecost Acts 2: 1-13

All say together:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful. Enkindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

## Input

In school, you have been learning about the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. In today's session, we are going to:

- explore the ways that the Holy Spirit is represented in scripture and art
- create our own prayers and illustrations of the Holy Spirit
- discover how the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit are present in our lives

## Activity

Warm up Game: Have the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit cut up in a tub. Invite the pupils forward one at a time to select one. They can then either describe the gift/fruit for their peers to guess or they could play Pictionary and draw the gifts/fruits. You can make it more challenging by giving them certain words that they can't use or things they can't draw.

## Input

Today we heard the story of Pentecost in our scripture reading. The followers of Jesus who were present at Pentecost used the symbols of wind and fire to help them explain what they had experienced on that day. Another symbol that has been used to describe/explain the Holy Spirit is 'breath'. The Holy Spirit is sometimes referred to as 'The Breath of God'. Read/refer to the three extracts from scripture (Appendix J) which should be displayed for the children to see.

## Activity

Distribute the Post It notes/ paper to the pupils. This could be done individually or in small groups/pairs. Give the pupils a timed challenge (30 second/1 minute) to describe the features of fire, wind, breath. E.g. Holding a timer, say 'fire' and the pupils list as many things as they can think of such as powerful, warmth, destroys, gives light etc. Repeat for wind and breath. After each, pause to take feedback from the pupils. Can they make any connections to the Holy Spirit? See example below:

| | |
|---|---|
| Fire is powerful | The Holy Spirit can have a powerful effect if we cooperate with him and his gifts |
| Fire gives light | The Holy Spirit enlightens and guides us |

Explain to the pupils that when the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are alive and working in us they begin to bear fruit in our lives. This can be seen in our actions, the way we treat others and generally how we live our lives. These characteristics are known as the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Show the pupils the

image of the tree (appendix K). In small groups ask them to come up with an explanation of what they think this image is describing.

## Activity

The pupils work in groups to create a poster to summarize what they have learned about the Holy Spirit and demonstrating the effect that the Holy Spirit can have in our lives. This should include some of the symbols that they have learned about today. They can also include the scripture extracts/ gifts/ fruits/ tree image.

## Closing Prayer

Everyone should gather around the sacred space.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

The candle is lit while a catechist says the following:

As we light this candle we remember that we belong to the Church. We remember that Jesus Christ is our light who is always with us. We are his followers.

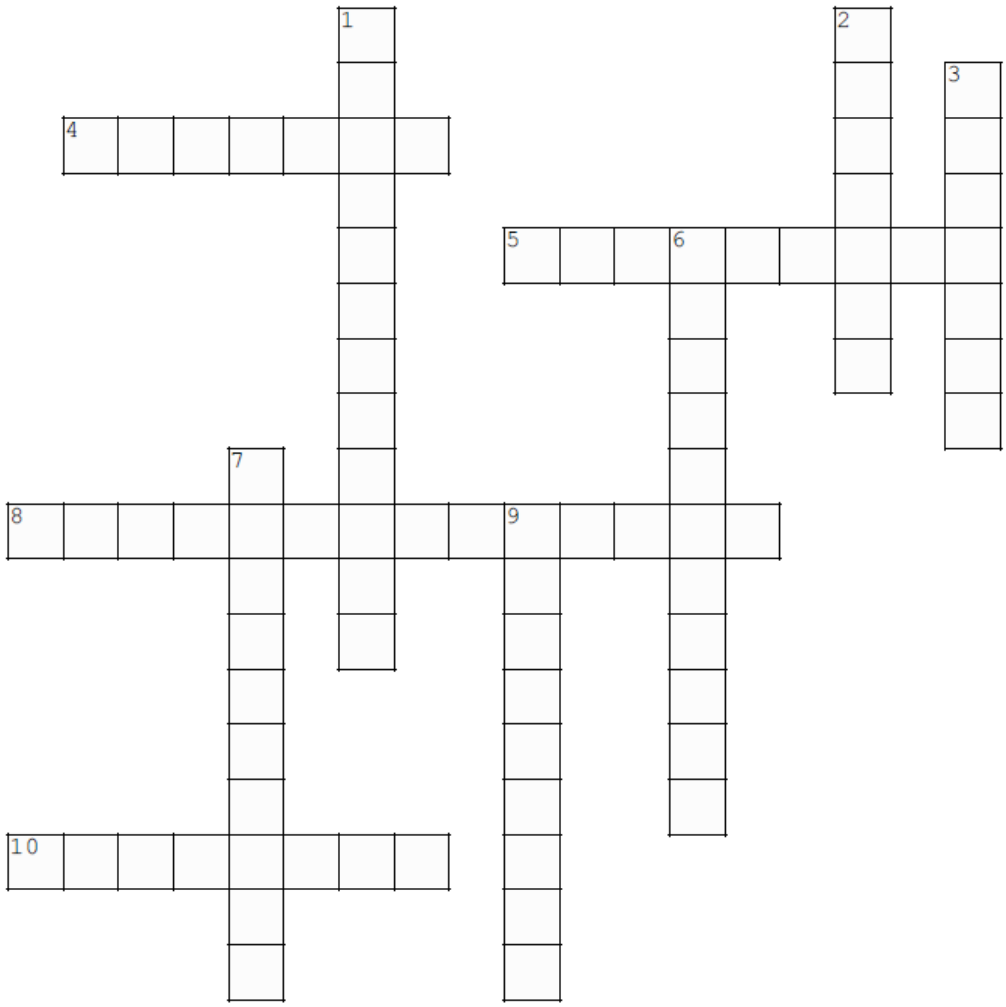
Invite the pupils to be still and reflect on what they have learned in today's session.

All :
Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit that I may always be holy.
Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end, Amen.

# The Seven Sacraments

Use the clues to complete the crossword below.




**Across**

4. Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick are sacraments of _____.

5. Through this sacrament we are nourished and united with Christ.

8. Through this sacrament our sins are forgiven and we are reconciled with Christ.

10. In this sacrament a man and woman agree to eternal faithfulness to each other and commit to being God's partners in the creation of new life.

**Down**

1. In this sacrament we receive a second outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

2. Holy Orders and Marriage are sacraments of _____.

3. Through this sacrament our sins are forgiven and we become members of the Church.

6. A man is bonded more closely to Christ so that he can share in His mission.

7. Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation are all sacraments of _____.

9. In this sacrament Christ heals, strengthens and consoles the sick.

Appendix B

Pope

Cardinal

Archbishop

Bishop

Priest

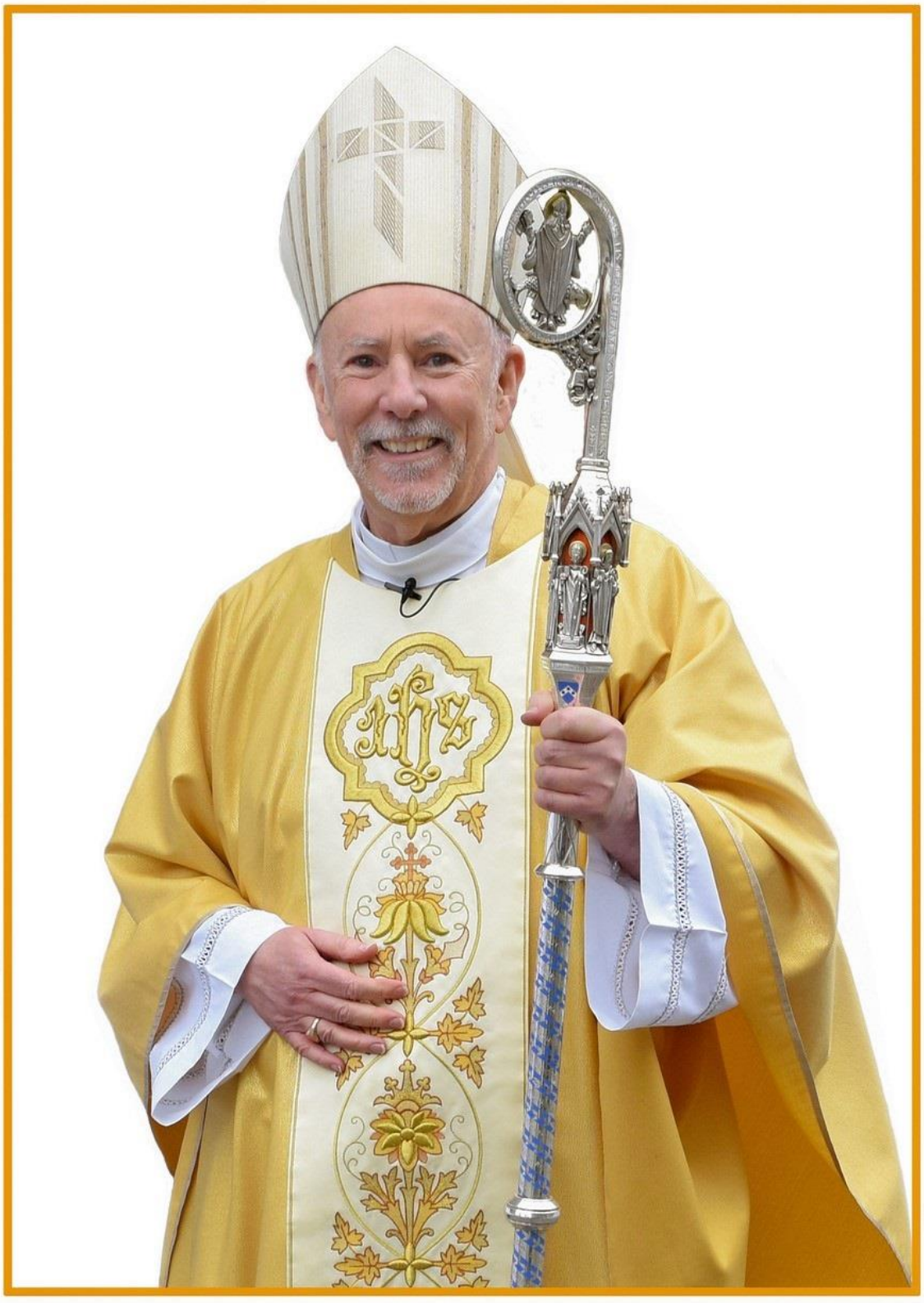
Deacon

Diocese

Archdiocese

Parish

# Appendix C



# Appendix D

# The Holy Spirit Guides the Church

Some people in the Church have special responsibilities. Jesus put His Church in the care of the Apostles, with Peter as their head. They were the leaders of the early Church and since then the Church has always had special leaders. These leaders are the Pope, the Bishops and the priests.

**Complete the sentences below.**

The name of our present Pope is _____

The Archbishop of Glasgow is _____

My Parish Priest's name is _____

The Pope and the Bishops are successors of the _____.

**Can you unjumble the words below?**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| opep | lcaarnrid | respti |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| shbipo | | hcobrispah |
| _____ | | _____ |
| oidcsee | | rshipa |
| _____ | | _____ |

*The God of power and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin and brought you to new life through water and the Holy Spirit. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation, so that, united with his people you may remain for ever a member of Christ who is Priest, Prophet and King.*

*All powerful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide.*

*Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgement and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence.*

Appendix G

| | |
|---|---|
| Priest | A _____prays and intercedes for others and offers sacrifices. |
| Prophet | A _____preaches the message of the Gospel by words and also by the way they live their lives. They do God's will and speak up for the truth. |
| King | A _____ is chosen to uphold the values of the kingdom, advises others and directs them towards God. |

# Priest, Prophet and King

I can be a priest by:

The Gift of _____ will help me.

I can be a prophet by:

The Gift of _____ will help me.

I can be a king by:

# The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Can you find the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit in the word search below?

| S | Q | W | E | W | K | B | J | L | U | Q | K | X | W | Q | M | B | V | R | E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | I | D | W | Q | Q | R | J | T | K | X | M | C | R | I | P | O | G | Z | V |
| E | A | V | P | B | X | U | Q | Z | Z | U | C | M | B | S | S | O | L | V | A |
| F | M | M | I | D | E | C | N | E | I | T | A | P | T | Y | O | D | C | C | T |
| Q | X | V | E | Y | H | H | E | D | N | L | L | F | P | D | Y | L | O | E | B |
| F | A | I | T | H | F | U | L | N | E | S | S | J | N | W | M | Q | C | M | F |
| L | M | Z | Y | F | O | J | W | K | Y | R | K | E | H | J | V | P | D | M | Y |
| S | L | O | J | O | J | J | B | M | I | M | S | F | Q | H | S | V | L | O | Z |
| A | I | C | P | S | H | L | J | Q | B | S | C | T | F | L | X | Z | X | S | V |
| H | Q | I | F | C | B | D | S | U | M | M | A | G | A | A | R | U | G | B | G |
| J | I | L | O | J | C | Y | D | L | V | R | B | J | A | N | Q | Q | K | F | F |
| U | T | Y | W | S | S | E | N | E | L | T | N | E | G | U | D | E | Q | I | A |
| Y | J | O | M | L | A | I | F | L | X | T | T | B | H | T | J | I | S | P | Q |
| R | D | J | F | O | R | T | I | T | U | D | E | V | O | L | O | C | N | J | V |
| E | W | K | I | N | D | N | E | S | S | X | D | H | J | C | K | F | T | G | W |
| E | R | R | I | F | E | A | R | O | F | T | H | E | L | O | R | D | L | F | M |
| L | O | R | T | N | O | C | F | L | E | S | B | K | H | U | K | T | L | M | A |
| A | O | O | K | D | D | N | Y | T | X | M | G | G | I | Q | Y | U | W | O | N |
| Q | C | O | U | N | S | E | L | Z | J | K | N | O | W | L | E | D | G | E | F |
| A | S | M | R | Z | P | C | N | E | C | A | E | P | V | E | Q | D | P | I | Z |

WISDOM FORTITUDE PIETY KNOWLEDGE COUNSEL

UNDERSTANDING LOVE SELF CONTROL FEAR OF THE LORD

PEACE FAITHFULNESS GENTLENESS GOODNESS

KINDNESS PATIENCE JOY

**Acts 2:3**

3 Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there

**Acts 2:2**

2 Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

**John 20:18-22**

22 Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

Appendix K

Chastity
Peace
Joy
Charity
Faith
Fortitude
Temperance
Justice
Goodness
Prudence
Hope
Wisdom
Understanding
Counsel
Fortitude
Knowledge
Piety
Fear of the Lord
Holy Spirit
Father
Son