



Pastoral Guidance
for the Preparation and Celebration
of the Sacrament of Confirmation

Guidelines, Procedures, Resources

May, 2017

*Thank the Lord for the grace of our
confirmation,
that filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit,
we may always mirror Christ's presence
in our relations with others,
our openness to those in need
and our living witness
to the Gospel message of joy and peace.*

Pope Francis. Vatican City, General Audience, January 29, 2014

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All documents are available as separate entities on the [diocesan website](#). Please check regularly for updates.

Introduction

From +Bill



Vicar General's Office
Fr Brian Mascord VG

VICAR GENERAL DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE
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Instruction
on the implementation of canon 879-896 relating to the Preparation and Celebration
of the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Diocese of Maitland Newcastle.

1/2017

The Need for an Instruction

When one examines the canons on Confirmation, the liturgical texts in the *Order of Confirmation*, the Apostolic Constitution on the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Introduction to the *Order of Confirmation* one is presented with a depth and breadth of options for both the preparation and celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The promulgation of the retranslated *Order of Confirmation* for use from Lent 2016 provided an opportunity for us to refresh our understanding of confirmation and consider how our liturgical celebration embodies this understanding. This opportunity also enabled us to respond to requests from some parishes for confirmation guidelines and resources to assist with the preparation of the liturgy.

The Process in Developing the Instruction

In consultation with Bishop Bill, the Diocesan Liturgy Council (DLC) and Co-ordinator drafted guidelines and resources to assist parish sacramental teams. A series of Confirmation Workshops was run at the beginning of 2016. These explored the retranslated *Order of Confirmation* (including the Constitution and Introduction) and discussed the draft guidelines and resources.

A second series of workshops was held at the end of 2016 and early 2017 to hear people's reflections on their experience of celebrating with the *Order of Confirmation* and their feedback on the diocesan guidelines and resources. In light of feedback from parish communities and Bishop Bill's reflections, the diocesan resources have been updated and the guidelines finalised.

The Instructions for Confirmation

These instructions are available on the diocesan website. They include:

- Diocesan Guidelines for the Preparation and Celebration of Confirmation
- Alternative rites for use in the diocese
- Liturgy advice form and liturgy outlines.
- Master copy templates for confirmation without and within mass.

The guidelines presume parishes are following the Diocesan Policy for Sacraments of Initiation *Go Make Disciples* and that confirmation is therefore celebrated prior to first communion.

Exhortation

Standing on a sound and ever developing understanding of confirmation, the Diocesan Policy for Sacraments of Initiation, and these Confirmation Guidelines, the parish liturgy takes on its own life as it is infused with the faith of the community, and in turn shapes that faith for the sake of the continuation of the mission of Jesus in its neighbourhoods. I commend these instructions to you,

This Instruction has an effective date of 1 June, 2017 nothing the contrary withstanding, and abrogates all previous instructions.

Given at Hamilton, NSW, on the 26th day of May 2017.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. B. Mascord V.G.".

Rev Brian Mascord VG

Vicar General

Fol17/2622/2

Overview

The great commission Christ gave us was to ‘go make disciples’. Sacraments of Initiation celebrate the fruit of this work and are great celebrations for the parish community and the families involved. Together we stand on holy ground: members of the community reaffirming their own faith as they witness the commitment of candidates and their families and pledge their support for them. Confirmation is an important step in this process of initiation.

Grounded in our understanding that liturgy is the indispensable source of the true Christian spirit, at these peak moments, the sacramental team works with the parish community to prepare a liturgy that invites all present into authentic worship. A liturgy

- focused on Christ who invites us to join ourselves more deeply to himself;
- that is an action we do together with Christ;
- that signifies what it effects through symbols that are large and effective doorways via which the community encounters Christ and is changed;
- focused on the continuation of Christ’s mission in the local area.

More specifically our understanding and appreciation of confirmation emerges from

- The liturgical texts in the *Order of Confirmation*
- the Apostolic Constitution on the Sacrament of Confirmation
- the Introduction to the *Order of Confirmation*.

The Constitution and Introduction are found in the *Order of Confirmation* and on LiturgyHelp and LabOra Worship.

The promulgation of the retranslated *Order of Confirmation* for use from Lent 2016 provided an opportunity for us to refresh our understanding of confirmation and consider how our liturgical celebration embodies this understanding. This opportunity also enabled us to respond to requests from some parishes for confirmation guidelines and resources to assist with the preparation of the liturgy.

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A second series of workshops was held at the end of 2016 and early 2017 to hear people’s reflections on their experience of celebrating with the *Order of Confirmation* and their feedback on the diocesan guidelines and resources. In light of feedback from parish communities and Bishop Bill’s reflections, the diocesan resources have been updated and the guidelines finalised. These are available on the diocesan website. They include:

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- Alternative rites for use in the diocese
- Liturgy advice form and liturgy outlines.
- Master copy templates for confirmation without and within mass.

The guidelines presume parishes are following the Diocesan Policy for Sacraments of Initiation *Go Make Disciples* and that confirmation is therefore celebrated prior to first communion.

Standing on a sound and ever developing understanding of confirmation, the Diocesan Policy for Sacraments of Initiation, and these Confirmation Guidelines, the parish liturgy takes on its own life as it is infused with the faith of the community, and in turn shapes that faith for the sake of the continuation of the mission of Jesus in its neighbourhoods.

These guidelines and resources form a living document. Ideally parish sacramental teams will continue to develop their understanding of confirmation by regular exploration of the primary sources, and their liturgical celebrations by engaging in a process of annual review. The DLC will undertake a more formal review every three years. Feedback and suggestions can be sent to me at any time. This will be incorporated into the DLC review process.

Please contact me if you have any questions as you prepare your confirmation liturgy.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise Gannon". The script is cursive and fluid.

Louise Gannon rsj

DIOCESAN CO-ORDINATOR OF LITURGY ON BEHALF OF THE DIOCESAN LITURGY COUNCIL.

MAY, 2017

Guidelines for the Preparation and Celebration of Confirmation

1. When confirmation is celebrated **within mass, preference is to be given to** the mass of the day – the readings and proper – especially on Sundays.

If there is a significant pastoral concern about the appropriateness of the readings of the day, contact the liturgy office to discuss this, well before it is time to send in your liturgy.

When confirmation is celebrated **outside mass**, prayers and readings would normally be from the *Order of Confirmation*.

2. Parishes **are asked to consider** celebrating confirmation and first communion separately. This is not a 'once and for all' decision. Ideally it would be revisited from year to year.
3. When confirmation is celebrated separately from first communion, parishes **are asked to consider** using the *Order for the Conferral of Confirmation without Mass*. This choice would also be revisited from year to year.
4. First Communion, the final step in the process of Christian Initiation, takes place on Sunday (Vigil included) – the Lord's Day – and in the presence of the worshipping community. It therefore **does not normally** accompany Confirmation when it is celebrated on a week day.
5. In keeping with the presumption made in the *Order of Confirmation*, candidates **do not** process in at the beginning of the liturgy, especially when confirmation/first communion takes place at the normal parish Sunday Mass.

The parish liturgy takes precedence. The community gathers as usual, including candidates for confirmation/first communion. The latter are already members of the community by virtue of their baptism. The Order assumes the entrance procession takes place as normal. This is a clearer symbol of our understanding of confirmation/first communion as part of the larger process of initiation.

6. To prioritise thorough and thoughtful preparation of the liturgy that includes consideration of the local community, those preparing confirmation **liturgies are to make all the liturgical choices required** e.g. the choice of elements in the Introductory Rite and the Eucharistic Prayer. As always the discretion of the presider in these matters remains.
7. The choice of 'The Asperges' in the Introductory Rite and the use of water from the baptismal font **is recommended**. This highlights the essential unity of the Sacraments of Initiation.

When using water from the baptismal font **the blessing prayer is omitted**. A suggested Introductory Statement is included in both liturgy templates and in Appendix 1 on pg 13. This statement would be used instead of one from the Missal as the latter presumes that a blessing prayer follows.

To strengthen the power of our symbols, when water from the baptismal font is used, the Bishop/presider goes to the font and takes the water from the font rather than the water being brought to him. If additional ministers are involved in the sprinkling, the Bishop/presider draws water from the font and gives it to each minister.

8. Rites variously called 'Witness/commitment of Parents and Sponsors' **are not** to be included in the confirmation/first communion liturgy. Such rites belong at the beginning of the preparation for confirmation/first communion.

9. The 'Renewal of Baptismal Promises' from the *Order of Confirmation* **is to be used**. **If there is a significant pastoral reason** the simplified form found in Appendix 2 on pg. 15 **may be used**. **No other simplified versions are to be used**.
10. The *Order of Confirmation* presumes that confirmation confirms the baptismal name. Candidates wishing to adopt a saint's name for confirmation are in fact choosing a patron or mentor for Christian life.
11. Confirmation and first communion are celebrations of the whole community. They are not children's liturgies. Therefore, in keeping with the Introduction to the *Directory of Masses for Children*, the *Children's Lectionary* and the *Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children* **are not to be used**. Ideally, preparation for these sacraments would include prayer and reflection with the texts used by the whole community.
12. Candidates for confirmation and first communion **do not** exercise additional liturgical ministries within the liturgy. They participate fully, actively and consciously in the liturgy as members of the assembly and as candidates for confirmation (and first communion).
13. Certificates **are to be presented by Sponsors** in the Concluding Rite or at the community gathering after the liturgy.
14. **Special Greetings** may be included in the confirmation liturgy. These are for members of the community who have already been confirmed or received into the Church, but have not been presented to the Bishop. This may include children or adults confirmed in infancy in Eastern Churches, children confirmed at birth due to illness and anyone received into the Church since the Bishop's last visit.

This Greeting would be offered in the Concluding Rite, after the presentation of certificates. Those to be presented could be accompanied by their sponsor/godparents. A way of doing this is included in the confirmation liturgy templates.

15. Copyright law **is to be adhered to**. Copyright information is available on the diocesan [website](#).
16. Liturgies are to be sent to the Bishop's office via the Co-ordinator of Liturgy **at least three weeks ahead of the scheduled liturgy**. Copies are to be sent electronically, preferably as Word documents.

16.1. The following is to be sent:

- The Bishop's Event Advice Form available from the Bishop's Personal Assistant is to be returned to her.
- An outline of the liturgy in the form most appropriate for the parish community is to be sent to the liturgy office including:
 - The **Confirmation Liturgy Advice Form** (Appendix 3)
 - Either:
 - A master copy of the liturgy (see templates)
 - OR
 - the completed **Liturgy Outline 1 or 2** with additional texts attached e.g. the Universal Prayer. (Appendix 4 and 5)
 - The People's Booklet or PowerPoint.

All copies for the presider's use are to be A4 size not A5 booklet size.

Both the Bishop and Vicar General are pleased to use the ritual books. **A master copy for the presider is needed only if there is a number of changes or additions to the liturgy.**

Beyond considering the needs of the presider, it may be helpful to those preparing the liturgy to prepare a master copy.

16.2. Support in preparing the confirmation/first communion liturgy is available from the Liturgy Office.

Contact can be made by phone or email well in advance of the time the liturgy is to be sent in.

Common pastoral issues and suggestions

Re Vesture: When celebrating the Mass of the day vestments would be worn in accord with that specified in the ordo. When celebrating according to the *Order for the Conferral of Confirmation within Mass* or the *Order for the Conferral of Confirmation Without Mass* red vestments would be worn. The final decision regarding vestment colour rests with the presider, so clergy would follow the presider's choice.

Discussion at workshops across the diocese noted the following ideas:

- i. Some parishes make a special effort to include children from the parish schools and candidates' families in the normal parish choir for the confirmation/first communion liturgy.
- ii. Preparation for confirmation/first communion that is based on liturgical prayer and reflection on the experience of that prayer, is a great help in forming candidates and their families to participate fully, consciously and actively in the whole liturgy rather than be there as spectators.
- iii. It is helpful to have families who are regular participants in parish liturgy to sit at the front so others can follow their lead during the liturgy. These same families have more confidence to 'go first' so they model how to do things for those less confident. This removes the need for sacramental team members to be 'hovering' too much and directing movement at key moments.
- iv. The *Rite for the Presentation of Symbols* found in appendix 1 for use in the *Order for the Conferral of Confirmation Without Mass* is able to be adapted by each community. For example: it will need to be choreographed to suit the liturgical space; you may not wish to use a spoken response.
- v. Catholic liturgy is essentially relational and therefore must engage effectively on a human level. Eye contact and acknowledgement are important. For example:
 - Readers are reading to the assembly
 - Candidates are presented to the Bishop/VG/presider.
- vi. Liturgy is an action of faith and so all liturgical ministries are forms of service done in faith; prayer not performance.
- vii. Liturgical texts are meant to be beautiful; the language is meant to be poetic and to raise our minds and hearts to God. Composing texts such as the Universal Prayer is a gift to be identified and nurtured. Who in the community has this gift? Invite them to assist with the preparation of the confirmation/first communion liturgies.

Appendix 1: Presentation of Symbols

The following ritual is for use in the Introductory Rite in *The Conferral of Confirmation without Mass*.

It is presented here with the same formatting as the master copy templates and so can be copied and pasted straight into your master copy.

The focus of the following outline of the Introductory Rite is the fourth element, the Presentation of Symbols. Preparation for this element begins in the Entrance Procession. That is why the entire Introductory Rite is included here. It is to be adapted by the community to suit its circumstances.

Green text is instruction for those preparing the liturgy and is to be deleted from the completed Master Copy.

Gathering Hymn

The Paschal candle is in position and lit.

As the gathering hymn begins the liturgical procession moves to the sanctuary as follows: cross bearer, person carrying the Oil of Chrism, person carrying the Book of the Gospels with clergy following as usual.

Upon reaching the sanctuary, those carrying symbols move to stand in the designated place. The other ministers make the usual reverence to the altar and move to their position. The bishop gives his mitre and crozier to the servers.

Insert words to hymn here.

Greeting

Bishop: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Bishop: Peace be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Introduction

The bishop introduces the celebration.

Presentation of Symbols *Please be seated.*

The bishop moves to the centre and those holding the symbols face him.

Bishop: We gather tonight as God's holy people, his disciples who 'put on Christ' at baptism.

The Light of Christ

Reader: The Paschal Candle shines brightly reminding us that at baptism we were enlightened by Christ, promising to keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts.

Christ our light.

All: Help us to walk always as children of the light.

The Cross

The cross bearer presents the cross to the bishop who holds it aloft as the following dialogue takes place.

Reader: At baptism we were claimed for Christ the priest, our parents and godparents marking us with the sign of the cross.

Christ our strength.

All: Help us to love as you love us.

The bishop returns the cross to the person who then places it in its usual position, moves to bow to the altar and returns to his/her place. The ritual continues when this action is complete.

The Word of God

The bearer of the Book of the Gospels presents it to the bishop who holds it aloft as the following dialogue takes place.

Reader: At baptism the priest prayed that our ears would be open to receive the Word of God and our mouth to proclaim it.

Christ our word of life.

All: Help us to listen to your word and pattern our lives on the Gospel.

The bishop returns the Book of the Gospels to the person who then places it on the altar, steps back and bows to the altar and returns to his/her place. The ritual continues when this action is complete.

The Holy Chrism

The bearer of the Holy Chrism presents it to the bishop who holds it aloft as the following dialogue takes place.

Reader: At baptism Christ anointed us with the oil of Chrism, so that, united with all God's people, we would remain forever a member of Christ who was anointed Priest, Prophet and King.

Tonight in the sacrament of confirmation God will again pour out the Holy Spirit upon our candidates so they will become more like Christ.
Christ our saviour.

All: Help us to live as your disciples.

The bishop returns the Chrism to the person who then places it near the paschal candle and baptismal font. He/she moves to bow to the altar and returns to his/her place. The ritual continues when this action is complete.

The Asperges – Rite for Sprinkling with Holy Water *Please stand*

The bishop moves to stand near the baptismal font. A server has the vessels to be filled with holy water.

Bishop: Dear friends, we come together to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation, an important step in the process of Christian Initiation.

May this baptismal water remind us of the promises we made at our baptism. As we use it in this sprinkling rite, let us, through the power of God's Spirit, be healed of our brokenness and renewed in faithfulness and love.

The bishop takes water from the font and moves through the church sprinkling the community with baptismal water. Music or an appropriate refrain accompanies the ritual action.

Insert words to any refrain being used here.

Upon returning the bishop goes to the font, pours the remaining water in and then returns to the chair. When all is ready he continues.

Bishop: May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Collect

Insert collect here.

'Presentation of Symbols' and Introduction to the Asperges: Local composition © Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. All rights reserved. Used with permission within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Appendix 2: Simplified Renewal of Baptismal Promises

It is strongly recommended that the Renewal of Baptismal promises from the *Order of Confirmation* be used. If there is a significant pastoral need the following slightly simplified version may be used.

The bishop continues using these or similar words.

Bishop: Boys and girls, your Christian Initiation began with your baptism. At that time your parents and godparents spoke in your name, promising to bring you up in the love of God and the faith of the Church.

A little earlier you stood when you were presented for confirmation – the next sacrament of initiation. This indicates that you are old enough to renew the promises made at your baptism. These promises remind us of the important elements of our faith that help us pattern our lives on the Gospel.

And so, before this faith community gathered to support you, I ask ...

Bishop: Do you reject Satan and everything that is against God's law of love?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Father who created everything in the heavens and on earth?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe in Jesus, God's Son, whose mother was Mary?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe that Jesus died and rose from the dead and is with God the Father forever?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who fills you with the life of God and will be given to you in confirmation today?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe in the holy Catholic Church; in God's forgiveness, and that God will raise up our bodies to live with him forever with the saints?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: This is our faith.
 This is the faith of the Church.
 We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

Simplified Renewal of Baptismal Promises: Local composition © Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. All rights reserved.
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Appendix 3: Confirmation Liturgy Advice Form

When preparing for Bishop Bill Wright or his delegate to preside at confirmation please complete this form and provide the detailed information requested in the format that suits your community.

Please send forms and liturgies **via email** to the Diocesan Co-ordinator for Liturgy and Adult Faith Formation **three weeks prior to the liturgy**. Please **do not** send documents as pdf files.

Support is available for those preparing the liturgy. Please contact the liturgy co-ordinator well before the liturgy is due to be sent in.

Parish Community: _____

Is expecting: Bishop
 Vicar General

To preside at: Confirmation outside Mass
 Confirmation within Mass
 Confirmation and First Communion

Date: _____

Time: _____

Venue: _____

Approximate number to be confirmed per liturgy: _____

Contact person on arrival: _____

Mobile contact: _____

Liturgy details:

- Deacon: _____
- Concelebrants: _____
- Mass Proper and reference: e.g. Fifth Sunday of Easter OR Mass for Conferral of Confirmation Option A. Missal pg 1186

- Readings and Translation: e.g. From *Order of Confirmation* as noted in Liturgy Outline OR Fifth Sunday of Easter. JB translation

The following information is attached:

- Liturgy Outline Form [to be completed when there is no Master Copy and the ritual books are to be used by the presider]. When completing this form please also attach
 - The Universal Prayer
 - Any other text that is not in the ritual books
 - The readings (if a translation other than the JB is being used)
- The Master Copy of the Liturgy
- The People's Book for the Liturgy
- The PowerPoint for the liturgy

Please ensure that all copyright requirements have been met before submitting your liturgy.

Copyright advice is available on the diocesan website: <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/catholic-faith/liturgy/copyright-in-catholic-worship>

The liturgy is submitted by:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

You will receive a reply as soon as possible.

With thanks,

Louise Gannon rsj

Diocesan Co-ordinator of Liturgy

PH: 4979 1135

E: louise.gannon@mn.catholic.org.au

Appendix 4: Liturgy Outline – Confirmation without Mass

OUTLINE	<i>Nominate options as appropriate including singing/music, scripture references.</i>	<i>Note any additional detail including movement of people.</i>
INTRODUCTORY RITES		
Entrance Procession		
Greeting		
Introduction (Letter of Delegation)		
Ritual for Presentation of Symbols		
Penitential Act [Asperges/Sprinkling]		
Collect		
CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD		
First Reading		
Responsorial Psalm		
Second Reading		
Gospel Acclamation		
Gospel		
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION		
Presentation of Candidates		
Homily or Address		
Renewal of Baptismal Promises		
Laying on of Hands		
Anointing with Chrism		
Universal Prayer		
The Lord’s Prayer		
CONCLUDING RITES		
Presentation of Certificates		
Special Greetings		
Greeting		
Solemn Blessing/Prayer Over the People		
Dismissal		

NOTES – please indicate any other detail that would be helpful to the Presider

Appendix 5: Liturgy Outline – Confirmation within Mass

OUTLINE	<i>Nominate options as appropriate including singing/music, scripture references.</i>	<i>Note any additional detail including movement of people.</i>
INTRODUCTORY RITES		
Entrance Procession		
Greeting		
Introduction (Letter of Delegation)		
Penitential Act [Asperges/Sprinkling]		
Gloria		
Collect		
LITURGY OF THE WORD		
First Reading		
Responsorial Psalm		
Second Reading		
Gospel Acclamation		
Gospel		
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION		
Presentation of Candidates		
Homily or Address		
Renewal of Baptismal Promises		
Laying on of Hands		
Anointing with Chrism		
Universal Prayer		
LITURGY OF EUCHARIST		
Preparation of the Gifts		
Prayer over the Offerings		
Eucharistic Prayer		
Preface		
Acclamations		
Sanctus		
Acclamation of Faith		

Amen		
Communion Rite		
The Lord's Prayer		
Sign of Peace		
Breaking of the Bread		
Communion		
Communion Procession		
Period of Silence or Song of Praise		
Prayer after Communion		
CONCLUDING RITES		
Presentation of Certificates		
Special Greetings		
Greeting		
Solemn Blessing/Prayer Over the People		
Dismissal		
Recessional Procession		
NOTES – please indicate any other detail that would be helpful to the Presider		

Appendix 6: Liturgy Template 1 – Order for the conferral of confirmation without Mass

Template Notes

This master template is offered for your assistance. It provides you with the general structure and formatting for the liturgy and much of the text. It is for you to adapt to suit your community.

These notes are to be deleted to make space for other things you wish to include on the inside cover.

This template:

- is for confirmation without Mass;
- is a Master Copy template and therefore includes all the structure and elements of the liturgy and detailed rubrics that explain everything that is to happen;
- presumes there is no deacon. Adjustments will need to be made if there is a deacon present;
- when viewed electronically, the styles listed at the top of the page are embedded into the template. Using these will make formatting easier. To amend a style, modify it in the list of styles and it will automatically be amended throughout the document.

Styles are listed as:

Lit Heading 1, 2 and 3

Lit Style 1 and 2, rubrics and copyright.

- green text gives directions for you and should be deleted from your Master Copy;
- when inserting liturgical texts retain the sense lines
- includes an Organisation Sheet at the end which may be of assistance. Adjust it to suit your needs.

Please consider the parish practice regarding 'Acknowledgement of Country' and include this ahead of the gathering hymn as appropriate.

Optional elements for our diocese are included in the appendices of the diocesan *Guidelines for the Preparation of the Sacrament of Confirmation*. These are:

- 'Ritual for the Presentation of Symbols' which may be included in the Introductory Rite for the *Order of Confirmation Without Mass*.
- Simplified version of the 'Renewal of Baptismal Promises' (See Guideline no. 9)

See also the forms to be completed when sending confirmation liturgies to the Bishop's/liturgy office:

- *Confirmation Liturgy Advice Form*
- *Liturgy Outline 1* which may accompany the advice form in place of a Master Copy.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any of this, please to contact the Diocesan Liturgy Co-ordinator as noted below.

With thanks,

Louise Gannon rsj

Diocesan Co-ordinator of Liturgy with the Diocesan Liturgy Council

E: louise.gannon@mn.catholic.org.au

P: 4979 1135

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Gathering Hymn *Please stand*

Place rubrics regarding the procession here.

Insert words to hymn here.

Greeting

Bishop: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Bishop: Peace be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Introduction

Under normal circumstances this is the opportunity for a brief introduction to the liturgy, either by the presider, or it could involve a welcome to the Bishop/VG from the community.

If however, in lieu of the bishop or vicar general, another priest has been delegated to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Letter of Delegation is read by the most appropriate leader in the parish. e.g. the parish priest if he is not the delegate, or if he is the delegate, the letter might be read by the chair of the Parish Pastoral Council. In this circumstance the introductory comments and/or welcome would follow the reading of the Letter of Delegation.

Please add rubrics to indicate what is happening.

The Asperges – Rite for Sprinkling with Holy Water

The bishop moves to stand near the Baptismal Font. A server has the vessels to be filled with holy water.

Bishop: Dear friends, we come together to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, an important step in the process of Christian Initiation.

May this baptismal water remind us of the promises we made at our baptism. As we use it in this sprinkling rite, let us, through the power of God's Spirit, be healed of our brokenness and renewed in faithfulness and love.

The bishop takes water from the font and moves through the Church sprinkling the community with holy water. Music or an appropriate refrain accompanies the ritual action.

Insert words to any refrain being used here.

Upon returning the bishop goes to the font, tips the remaining water in and then returns to the chair. When all is ready he continues.

Bishop: May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Collect

Bishop: Let us pray

Pause for silent prayer

Insert the text for the Collect keeping the sense lines as set out in the Missal.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

CELEBRATION OF GOD'S WORD

First Reading

A reading from ...

Insert the first reading here.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Pause for quiet reflection.

Responsorial Psalm

Insert the Psalm here. Ensure it is set out as it will be prayed. e.g. indicating repeats, cantor parts, assembly parts.

Pause for quiet reflection.

Gospel Acclamation *Please stand*

Insert the Gospel Acclamation here ensuring it is set out as it is to be prayed.

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to ...

Insert the Gospel here.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Presentation of Candidates *Please be seated*

The bishop and other ministers take their seats. The presenter calls each candidate by name. The candidates stand in their places when called and remain standing until invited to sit.

Amend or extend the rubrics above to indicate what is to happen. Also add any text associated with the Presentation.

Homily

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

After the homily, the bishop invites the candidates to stand and then questions them. The candidates respond together.

Bishop: ...

Bishop: 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.

Bishop: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.
We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Laying on of Hands

The concelebrating priests stand near the bishop. He faces the people and with hands joined says.

Bishop: 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.

All pray in silence for a short time.

The bishop and the priests who will minister the sacrament with him lay hands upon all the candidates (by extending their hands over them). The bishop alone says:

Bishop: 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.

All: Amen.

The Anointing with Chrism

Amend the following rubrics to outline the process for confirmation.

The Chrism is brought to the bishop. Each candidate goes to the bishop, or the bishop may go to the individual candidates. The one who presented the candidate places his right hand on the latter's shoulder and gives the candidate's name to the bishop, or the candidate may give his or her own name.

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, as he says:

Bishop: N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Child: Amen.

The bishop touches the cheek of the newly confirmed as a sign of peace.

Bishop: Peace be with you.

Child: And with your Spirit.

Music or an appropriate hymn may accompany the anointing.

If a hymn is used it is inserted here.

The Universal Prayer *Please stand*

Insert Introductory statement and petitions. There is no concluding prayer at the end of the petitions.

The Recitation of the Lord's Prayer

Using these or similar words the bishop introduces the Our Father.

Bishop: My brothers and sisters,
the power of the Holy Spirit enables us to pray
and to call God Our Father.
Let us gather together our petitions,
praying with one voice,
as the Lord Jesus Christ taught us.

The bishop extends his hands, and, together with the Assembly, continues:

All: 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.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

Presentation of Certificates

The bishop addresses the sponsors, inviting them to present the newly confirmed with their certificates.

Special Greeting

This is only included if there are people to be greeted by the bishop as outlined in the Diocesan Guidelines for Confirmation item 14. People would only be presented to the bishop and vicar general, not to delegates.

Greeting

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Solemn Blessing

Choose either the Solemn Blessing or the Prayer Over the People (Missal pg. 1188)

Bishop: Bow down for the blessing.

Bishop: May God the Father almighty bless you
whom he has made his sons and daughters

reborn by the Holy Spirit,
and may he keep you worthy of his fatherly love.

All: Amen.

Bishop: May his Only Begotten Son,
who promised the Spirit of truth would abide in his Church,
bless you and confirm you by his power
in the confession of the true faith.

All: Amen.

Bishop: May the Holy Spirit,
who kindles the fire of charity in the hearts of disciples,
bless you and lead you blameless and gathered as one,
into the joy of the Kingdom of God

All: Amen.

Bishop: May almighty God bless all of you who are gathered here,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit.

All: Amen.

OR

Prayer Over the People

Bishop: Bow down for the blessing.

Bishop: Confirm O God,
what you have brought about in us,
and preserve in the hearts of your faithful
the gifts of the Holy Spirit:
may they never be ashamed
to confess Christ crucified before the world
and by devoted charity
may they ever fulfil his commands.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Bishop: May almighty God bless all of you who are gathered here,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

Bishop: Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Recessional Hymn

Insert hymn here

Acknowledgement

All hymns/mass parts used in the liturgy are to be acknowledged where they occur in the people's booklet or powerpoint. Please see the template and other resources on the diocesan [website](#) for further information.

An acknowledgement of the Missal, Order of Confirmation and Scripture texts must also be made. What appears below incorporates most things you will need. Delete the scripture acknowledgement you are not using and any other acknowledgements that are unnecessary. Please note the very strict conditions for amending any text covered by copyright.

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Appendix 7: Liturgy Template 2 – Order for the conferral of confirmation within Mass

Template Notes

This master template is offered for your assistance. It provides you with the general structure and formatting for the liturgy and much of the text. It is for you to adapt to suit your community.

These notes are to be deleted to make space for other things you wish to include on the inside cover.

This template:

- is for confirmation (and first communion) within Mass and presumes it is a Sunday liturgy;
- is a Master Copy template and therefore includes all the structure and elements of the liturgy and detailed rubrics that explain everything that is to happen;
- presumes there is no deacon. Adjustments will need to be made if there is a deacon present;
- when viewed electronically, the styles listed at the top of the page are embedded into the template. Using these will make formatting easier. To amend a style, modify it in the list of styles and it will automatically be amended throughout the document.

Styles are listed as:

Lit Heading 1, 2 and 3

Lit Style 1 and 2, rubrics and copyright.

- **green text gives directions for you and should be deleted from your Master Copy;**
- when inserting liturgical texts retain the sense lines
- includes an Organisation Sheet at the end which may be of assistance. Adjust it to suit your needs.

Please consider the parish practice regarding ‘Acknowledgement of Country’ and include this ahead of the gathering hymn as appropriate.

An optional element for our diocese is the simplified version of the ‘Renewal of Baptismal Promises’ (See Guideline no. 9) which is included in the appendix 2 of the diocesan *Guidelines for the Preparation of the Sacrament of Confirmation*.

See also the forms to be completed when sending confirmation liturgies to the Bishop’s/liturgy office:

- *Confirmation Liturgy Advice Form*
- *Liturgy Outline 2* which may accompany the advice form in place of a Master Copy.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any of this, please contact the Diocesan Liturgy Co-ordinator as noted below.

With thanks,

Louise Gannon rsj

Diocesan Co-ordinator of Liturgy with the Diocesan Liturgy Council

E: louise.gannon@mn.catholic.org.au

P: 4979 1135

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Gathering Hymn *Please stand*

Place rubrics regarding the procession here.

Insert words to hymn here.

Greeting

Bishop: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Bishop: Peace be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Introduction

Under normal circumstances this is the opportunity for a brief introduction to the liturgy, either by the presider, or it could involve a welcome to the Bishop/VG from the community.

If however, in lieu of the bishop or vicar general, another priest has been delegated to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Letter of Delegation is read by the most appropriate leader in the parish. e.g. the parish priest if he is not the delegate, or if he is the delegate, the letter might be read by the chair of the Parish Pastoral Council. In this circumstance the introductory comments and/or welcome would follow the reading of the Letter of Delegation.

Please add rubrics to indicate what is happening.

The Asperges – Rite for Sprinkling with Holy Water

The bishop moves to stand near the Baptismal Font. A server has the vessels to be filled with holy water.

Bishop: Dear friends, we come together to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, an important step in the process of Christian Initiation.

May this baptismal water remind us of the promises we made at our baptism. As we use it in this sprinkling rite, let us, through the power of God's Spirit, be healed of our brokenness and renewed in faithfulness and love.

OR

Bishop: Dear friends, we come together to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation and first communion by which our candidates will complete the process of Christian Initiation and become full members of the Catholic Church.

May this baptismal water remind us of the promises we made at our baptism. As we use it in this sprinkling rite, let us, through the power of God's Spirit be healed of our brokenness and renewed in faithfulness and love.

The bishop takes water from the font and moves through the Church sprinkling the community with holy water. Music or an appropriate refrain accompanies the ritual action.

Insert words to any refrain being used here.

Upon returning the bishop goes to the font, tips the remaining water in and then returns to the chair. When all is ready he continues.

Bishop: May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Collect

Bishop: Let us pray

Pause for silent prayer

Insert the text for the Collect keeping the sense lines as set out in the Missal.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from ...

Insert the first reading for the day here.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Pause for quiet reflection.

Responsorial Psalm

Insert the Psalm here. Ensure it is set out as it will be prayed. e.g. indicating repeats, cantor parts, assembly parts.

Pause for quiet reflection.

Second Reading

A reading from ...

Insert the second reading here.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Pause for quiet reflection.

Gospel Acclamation *Please stand*

Insert the Gospel Acclamation here ensuring it is set out as it is to be prayed.

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to ...

Insert the Gospel here.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Presentation of Candidates

Please be seated

The bishop and other ministers take their seats. The presenter calls each candidate by name. The candidates stand in their place when called and remain standing until invited to sit.

Amend or extend the rubrics above to indicate what is to happen. Also add any text associated with the Presentation.

Homily

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

After the homily, the bishop invites the candidates to stand and then questions them. The candidates respond together.

Bishop: ...

Bishop: 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.

Bishop: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.
We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Laying on of Hands

The concelebrating priests stand near the bishop. He faces the people and with hands joined says.

Bishop: 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.

All pray in silence for a short time.

The bishop and the priests who will minister the sacrament with him lay hands upon all the candidates (by extending their hands over them). The bishop alone says:

Bishop: 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.

All: Amen.

The Anointing with Chrism

Amend the following rubrics to outline the process for confirmation.

The Chrism is brought to the bishop. Each candidate goes to the bishop, or the bishop may go to the individual candidates. The one who presented the candidate places his right hand on the latter's shoulder and gives the candidate's name to the bishop, or the candidate may give his or her own name.

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, as he says:

Bishop: N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Child: Amen.

The bishop touches the cheek of the newly confirmed as a sign of peace.

Bishop: Peace be with you.

Child: And with your Spirit.

Music or an appropriate hymn may accompany the anointing.

If a hymn is used it is inserted here.

The Universal Prayer *Please stand*

Insert introductory statement, petitions and concluding prayer here.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Preparation of the Gifts

If a hymn is being used for the Preparation of the Gifts it is inserted here. Also if using a hymn or the prayers are being prayed quietly, delete the people's response 'Blessed be God forever' from the following prayers.

After receiving the bread and wine the bishop and deacons move to the altar, where the bishop takes the vessel holding the bread, and holding it slightly above the altar, says inaudibly:

Bishop: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received
the bread we offer you:
fruit of the earth and work of human hands,
it will become for us the bread of life.

He then places the paten with the bread on the corporal.

All: Blessed be God forever.

The deacon, or the priest, pours wine and a little water into the chalice, saying quietly:

By the mystery of this water and wine
may we come to share in the divinity of Christ
who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

Taking the chalice and holding it slightly above the altar, the bishop says inaudibly:

Bishop: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received
the wine we offer you:
fruit of the vine and work of human hands,
it will become our spiritual drink.

Then he places the chalice on the corporal.

All: Blessed be God forever.

The bishop bows and says inaudibly:

Bishop: With humble spirit and contrite heart
may we be accepted by you, O Lord,
and may our sacrifice in your sight this day
be pleasing to you, Lord God.

The bishop washes his hands, saying inaudibly:

Bishop: Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

Prayer over the Offerings

Please stand

Bishop: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.**

Insert the Prayer Over the Offerings here

Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer II (Preface XXX)

Insert the Eucharistic Prayer and Preface here.

Communion Rite

Please stand

Bishop: My brothers and sisters,
The power of the Holy Spirit
enables us to pray and to call God Our Father.
So let us pray with one voice,
as the Lord Jesus Christ taught us.

All: **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.**

Bishop: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: **For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

The bishop, with hands extended, says aloud:

Bishop: Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

The bishop extends and then joins his hands, and continues:

Bishop: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Bishop: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

The assembly exchanges a sign of peace.

The bishop then takes the host, breaks it over the paten, and places a small piece in the chalice, saying quietly:

Bishop: May this mingling of the Body and Blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ
bring eternal life to us who receive it.

Meanwhile, the assembly prays:

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

The bishop, with hands joined, continues inaudibly:

Bishop: May the receiving of your Body and Blood,
Lord Jesus Christ,
not bring me to judgement and condemnation,
but through your loving mercy
be for me protection in mind and body
and a healing remedy.

The bishop genuflects, takes the host and, holding it slightly raised above the paten or above the chalice, while facing the people, says aloud:

Bishop: Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All: Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

The following communion hymns are to be used only as needed for the communion procession

Insert Communion Hymn(s) here

If there is first communion, please include rubrics that explain how this is to take place.

After communion, a period of silence is observed.

Prayer after Communion

Please stand.

Bishop: Let us pray.

Insert the prayer here.

Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Presentation of Certificates

The bishop addresses the sponsors inviting them to present the newly confirmed with their certificates.

Special Greeting

This is only included if there are people to be greeted by the bishop as outlined in the Diocesan Guidelines for Confirmation item 14. People would only be presented to the bishop and vicar general, not to delegates.

Greeting

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Solemn Blessing

Choose either the Solemn Blessing or the Prayer Over the People (Missal pg. 1188)

Bishop: Bow down for the blessing

Bishop: May God the Father almighty bless you
whom he has made his sons and daughters
reborn by the Holy Spirit,
and may he keep you worthy of his fatherly love.

All: Amen.

Bishop: May his Only Begotten Son,
who promised the Spirit of truth would abide in his Church,
bless you and confirm you by his power
in the confession of the true faith.

All: Amen.

Bishop: May the Holy Spirit,
who kindles the fire of charity in the hearts of disciples,
bless you and lead you blameless and gathered as one,
into the joy of the Kingdom of God

All: Amen.

Bishop: May almighty God bless all of you who are gathered here,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit.

All: Amen.

OR

Prayer Over the People

Bishop: Bow down for the blessing.

Bishop: Confirm O God,
what you have brought about in us,
and preserve in the hearts of your faithful
the gifts of the Holy Spirit:
may they never be ashamed
to confess Christ crucified before the world
and by devoted charity
may they ever fulfil his commands.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Bishop: May almighty God bless all of you who are gathered here,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

Bishop: Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn

Insert hymn here

Acknowledgement

All hymns/mass parts used in the liturgy are to be acknowledged where they occur in the People's booklet or powerpoint. Please see the template and other resources on the diocesan [website](#) for further information.

An acknowledgement of the Missal, Oder of Confirmation and Scripture texts must also be made. What appears below incorporates most things you will need. Delete the scripture acknowledgement you are not using. Please note the very strict conditions for amending any text covered by copyright.

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