

## Confirmation

People born into Catholic families are usually **baptized** as babies. This is when the family and friends promise to bring up the baby as a Roman Catholic Christian.

When the person is old enough to make their own decisions they can be **confirmed**. A person being confirmed will say that they believe in God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and ask for strength and courage to live as Jesus would want them to and to tell other people about their faith.

Before you get confirmed you will probably be asked to a confirmation class where you will learn all about Christianity and know exactly what all the promises mean.

### The Sacrament of Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation often happens in the middle of a normal Mass; after the sermon and before the actual Eucharist.

### Presentation of the candidate.

The names of everybody to be confirmed are read out. Each one stands up so everyone can see and then goes to the Bishop at the front.

### The Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

Each candidate is asked questions about what they believe. Each candidate has to promise to reject evil. These promises are like an enrolment in to the Catholic Church. It is a bit like joining a club, except that the promises you make should effect the whole way you live your life.

### The Laying on of Hands.

The Bishop lays his hands on each of the candidates. This is to show them that they have the special job of living like Jesus would want and showing other people how to do the same. The hands are a symbol of the **power** and **strength** that will come to them through the Holy Spirit.

### The Anointing with Chrism.

The Bishop says the candidate's **name**. This can be a special confirmation name or the name they usually use.

The bishop then makes the **sign of the cross** on the forehead of the candidate with **oil of Holy Chrism**. This oil is an ancient sign of being chosen by God. It is also used in baptism. The sign of the cross shows that the candidate is a child of God. Oil can be used to heal or give strength.

The bishop says "**Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit**"

The Bishop then says "**Peace be with you**"

and the candidate replies, "**And also with you**".

Answer these questions in full sentences.

1. Why do you think people get confirmed if they have already been baptized?

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2. What are Confirmation Classes for ?

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3. Do you know anyone who had been confirmed? See if you can find out their confirmation names.

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4. What is the laying on of hands a symbol of?

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5. What is the name of the oil used to show that the person being confirmed has been specially chosen by God?

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