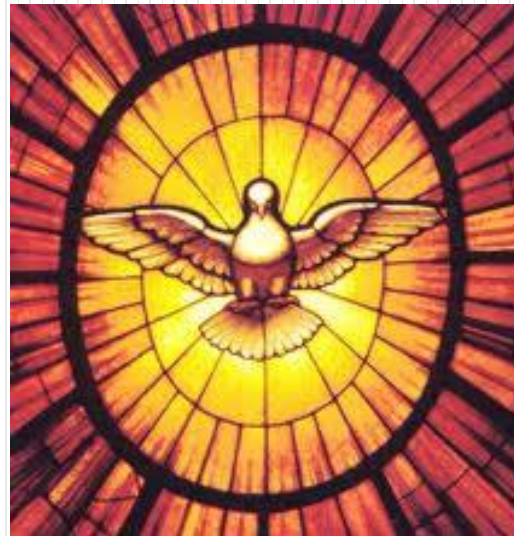


The Sacrament of Confirmation Parent Meeting

St. Edward's Catholic Primary School



Prayer to the Holy Spirit



O Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.
O God, who has taught the hearts of the faithful
by the light of the Holy Spirit,
grant that by the gift of that same Spirit
we may be always truly wise
and ever rejoice in his consolation.
Amen.

Welcome

- It's a very special year for our Y6 children!

The Seven Sacraments

- We know that children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, but can you name the other 6 sacraments?



The Seven Sacraments

- The number seven is itself a symbol of completeness, of boldness and of abundance .
- When we say that there are seven sacraments, we mean more than their number is one plus six.
- Seven sacraments implies the abundance of God's love for us and the all sufficient nature of grace.



We are all members of a very special family - the Church. Three of the Sacraments admit you into this great family of God's on earth.

These sacraments are Baptism, the Eucharist and Confirmation.

This year, children will receive the last of the 3 sacraments of initiation.

Sacraments are very beautiful and powerful signs of God working within us.

In Baptism and Confirmation we are marked by God as his own. At Baptism you have said 'Yes' to God. God sent the Holy Spirit to help you live as a follower of Jesus.

At Confirmation, your 'yes' will be strengthened, that is confirmed, made strong by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Words may be able to explain what happens at Confirmation and what it means to be confirmed but we really don't know what Confirmation is until we experience the ritual symbols of the sacrament.

Parents, do you remember your own Confirmation?

Please take a moment to describe it to your child.

Pentecost



When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. – *Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4*

Confirmation



In Confirmation, we receive the same Holy Spirit that descended upon the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary at Pentecost. God holds nothing back from Us.

Confirmation IS

A Sacrament of Initiation

Baptism
Confirmation
Holy Eucharist



Confirmation IS

An increase and deepening of the grace that we receive in Baptism.

An increase in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit



Confirmation IS

Where God Confirms the good work that He has already begun in us at Baptism. It is a completion and perfection of the grace received in Baptism.



Confirmation IS

A Sacrament that bestows special graces that enable us to spread and defend the faith as a true witness to Christ.

Confirmation imprints us with an indelible mark.



The primary symbol of Confirmation is the community itself.

Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are sacraments of initiation, initiation into a community.

The community is the sign of Christ's presence.

Every Confirmation begins with Baptism.
Confirmation means all that Baptism means.

Confirmation IS NOT!

The First time we receive the Holy Spirit



From ancient times, to impose hands on someone or to extend one's hand over the person's head was the sign of calling down the Holy Spirit.

All seven sacraments employ this symbol.

At *Baptism* you have said 'Yes' to God. God sent the Holy Spirit to help you live as a follower of Jesus.

In the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the priest invokes the Holy Spirit upon the gifts, extends his hands over the bread and wine and prays that the Holy Spirit change them into the Body and Blood of Christ.

In Confirmation the priest or bishop places his hands on each person to be confirmed and prays that the Holy Spirit will descend upon them.



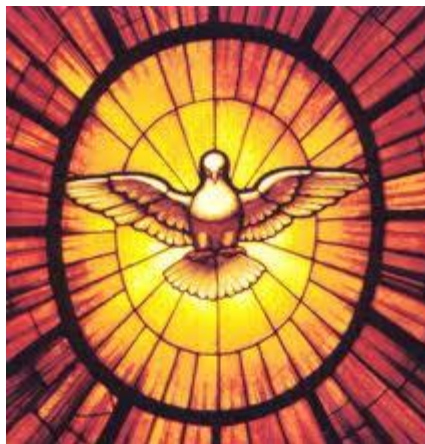


Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- In Confirmation we receive God's mark, God's seal.
- God permanently and eternally seals us as God's Anointed one.
- The Prophet Isaiah taught that the seven gifts would be the sign of the Messiah, the one anointed by the Holy Spirit.
- The word Messiah means "anointed".
- Jesus is the Christ, the anointed one, the one filled with the Holy Spirit.
- At Confirmation we are anointed with that same Holy Spirit.

Can you name any of the gifts that you receive from the Holy Spirit during Confirmation?

You have a few minutes to discuss these with your parents. (Hint: there are 7)





Knowledge

Understanding

Wisdom

Counsel

Piety

Fortitude

Fear of the Lord

Fear of the Lord

- In the Book of Isaiah 11:2-3, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are described. In the passage the gifts are considered ones that the Messiah would have possessed. Through Jesus, we also receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Wisdom helps us recognise the importance of others and the importance of keeping God central in our lives.
- Understanding is the ability to comprehend the meaning of God's message.
- Knowledge is the ability to think about and explore God's revelation, and also to recognise there are mysteries of faith beyond us.
- Counsel is the ability to see the best way to follow God's plan when we have choices that relate to him.
- Fortitude is the courage to do what one knows is right.
- Piety helps us pray to God in true devotion.
- Fear of the Lord is the feeling of amazement before God, who is all-present, and whose friendship we do not want to lose.

Intentions for Confirmation

Take a moment to discuss as a family:

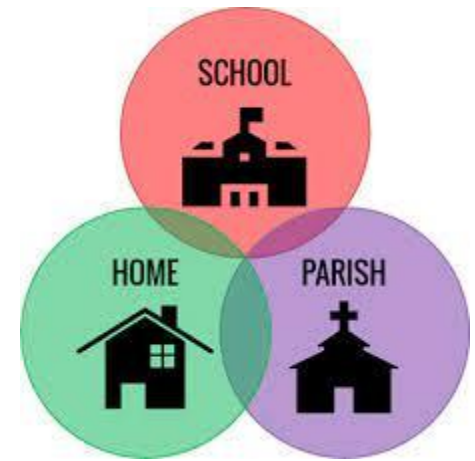
- How do you hope the Holy Spirit will change you/ your child?
- How will you be filled with the Spirit?
- What kind of person do you want to be, after you're Confirmed?

Children: make a promise to yourself about the kind of person you will be after receiving the Holy Spirit at Confirmation.

Parents: write a prayer for your child as they begin their preparation for Confirmation.

Preparation for Confirmation

- Partnership of School, Home and Parish
- Class work – familiarity with the Rite of Confirmation, symbolism, gifts of the Holy Spirit, prayers, hymns



Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

A sponsor is someone to pray for you and guide you
in the Catholic Faith

They must be a practicing Catholic – someone who
attends Mass and strives for holiness

He or she must be at least 14 years old and have
received all of their Sacraments of initiation

A New Name

When God calls someone to a special mission and purpose, he bestows a new name

| | | |
|-------------|-------|-----------|
| Abram | ----- | Abraham |
| Jacob | ----- | Israel |
| Simon | ----- | Peter |
| Karol | ----- | John Paul |
| Joseph | ----- | Benedict |
| Jorge Mario | ----- | Francis |

Choosing a Confirmation Name



Choose the name
of a Patron Saint

Someone who
inspires you

Someone to imitate

Someone to look
up to

Someone to pray
for you

Reconciliation

Just prior to the Confirmation it is important for the pupils to attend Confession.



This will take place on Sunday 1st March at 2pm

We invite children, parents, sponsors and the whole family to come and receive the Sacrament.

Finally...

It is crucial that pupils are fully prepared and ready for this important step on their faith journey by participating *fully* in the life of the Church.

Attend Mass

Receive Holy Communion

Attend Confession

Prayer as part of daily life.

We all need to help them prepare!



For Confirmation

One must:

be in the State of Grace

Profess and Believe in the One True Catholic Faith

Have a Desire to Receive the Sacrament

Be Ready to Fully commit to Living as a Disciple of
Jesus Christ

FORMS

Please complete and return to school ASAP.

Saint Name and Project

Make a start researching a number of different Saints.

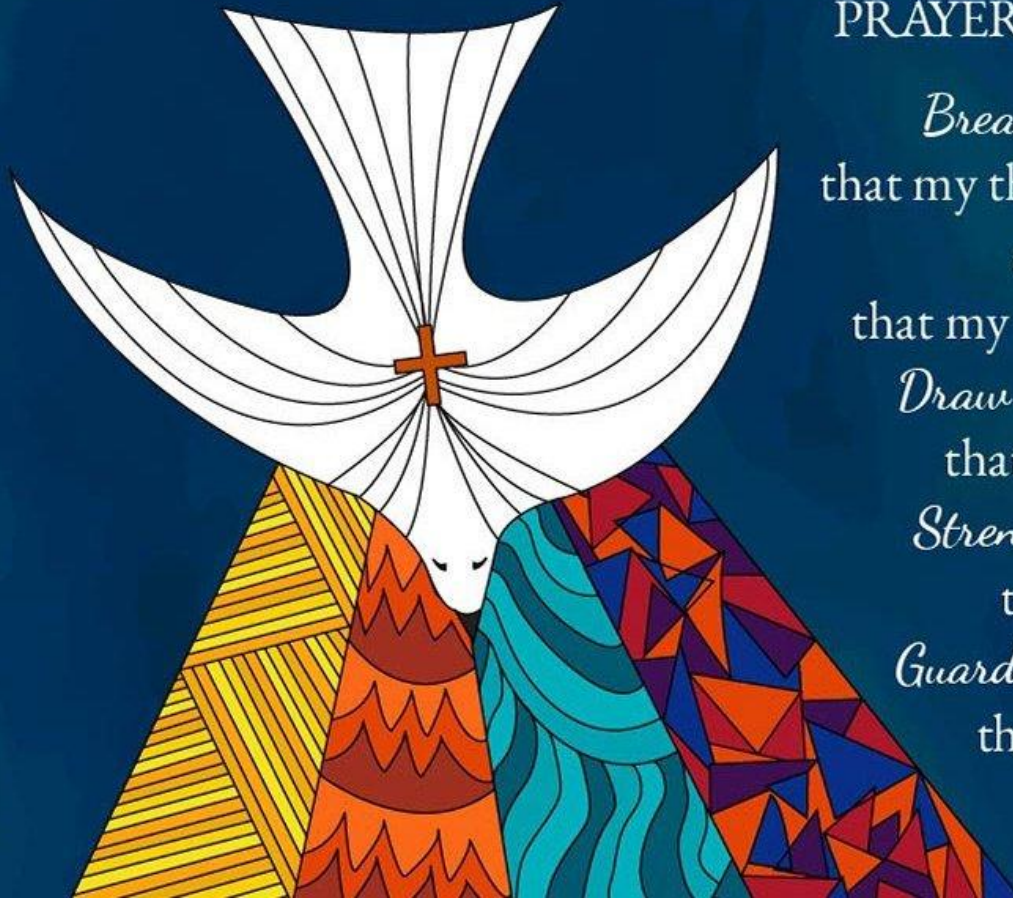
Start drawing up a shortlist of possibilities.

More info about projects to follow.



A final prayer

artwork by Antonina Chai  www.unfoldingpetalsart.com



PRAYER OF ST.AUGUSTINE

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 always may be holy.

AMEN.