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Registration Form for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Child's Name DOB	
Baptism Where? When?	<i>We will need to see the certificate in due course</i>
Parents' Names	
Address	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
School	
Parish Address	31 Vicarage Road, Henley-On-Thames. RG9 1HT
Parish Phone	01491 573 258
Parish Email	sh.henley@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Mass Times	Saturday (for Sunday) 6 pm Sunday 8.30 & 10.30 am

Are there Parents meetings?

Yes, we usually have meetings with parents to discuss all aspects of the Sacrament of Confirmation, such as the meaning of the Sacrament and its preparation, and celebration in the life of the parish, sponsors, baptismal details, and to answer any questions you may have.

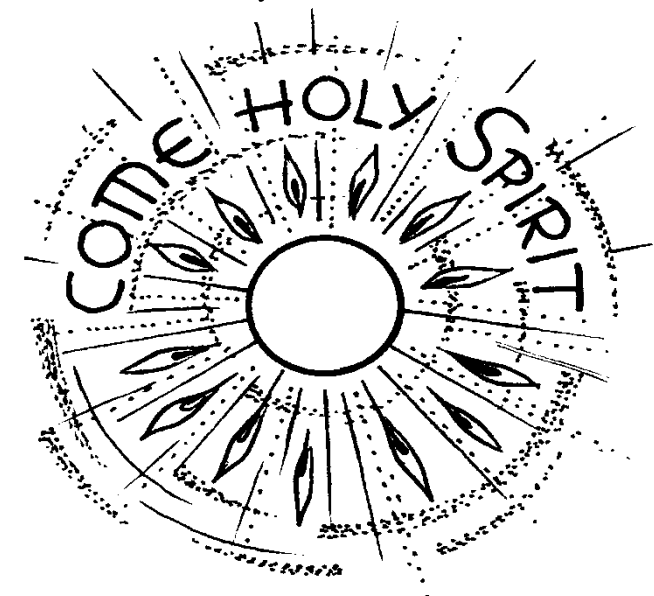
How does an adult go about seeking Confirmation?

If you are a regular worshipper in this parish but for some reason 'missed the boat' when you were younger and have yet to be confirmed, we would encourage you to seek this important sacrament. You may also be planning to get married in a country which requires you to be confirmed first, such as Italy, Poland or Portugal. In either of these cases you need to approach Fr Paul about adult confirmation.

Anybody seeking to become a Catholic who was baptised in another denomination will usually need to be confirmed when they are received.

**The Sacrament of
Confirmation
will be celebrated on
Saturday 3rd June 2023
at 6pm Mass**

The Parish of Sacred Heart
Henley on Thames



Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation

This leaflet gives a brief introduction to the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation and answers the following questions:

- What is confirmation about?
- When are young people normally confirmed?
- How is Confirmation of young people organised in this parish?
- How does an adult go about seeking Confirmation?
- How do I enrol?

What is Confirmation about?

Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of the Christian life we received at Baptism:

- It unites us more fully to Christ
- It increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us
- It enriches us with a special strength of the Holy Spirit
- It binds us more perfectly to the Church
- It enables us to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church)

Confirmation is closely linked with baptism. At our baptism, our Parents and God-Parents professed the faith on our behalf – our baptismal promises. At our Confirmation we profess these same promises. When we were baptised, we received the Holy Spirit, by Confirmation we are sealed with the fullness of the Holy Spirit. One way of looking at it is to say that baptism transforms us, making us a new creation. Confirmation makes that public, so that we, in the power of the Spirit, might transform the world.

Confirmation is also closely united with the Sacrament of the Eucharist; so that by reception of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist (the Sacraments of Initiation) we are fully incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ.

“All powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ ... Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide”.

from the Rite of Confirmation.

When are young people normally confirmed?

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham, the normal minimum age for Confirmation is school year 6 (11 years old). This is seen as an appropriate age for young people to take on responsibility for their own Catholic faith and to accept the responsibility of being witnesses to Christ. The reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation enables these young people to receive the gifts of the Spirit, necessary to live a fully Christian life.

However, it is the young people themselves who make the choice. Family and parish have a duty to encourage and support them but the decision must be theirs. We respect their decision, especially if they decide to postpone the reception of the Sacrament for a later time.

How is the Confirmation of young people organised in Henley on Thames?

Young people are confirmed in the Summer Term, usually late May/early June each year. Prior to this they participate in a course which begins in January on that same year. Full participation in the course is essential.

Sacred Heart Catholic School begins to teach this programme in year 6 from the beginning of the Spring Term.

Those young people at non-Catholic schools are asked to attend a course of preparation. This will be led by Fr Paul and an experienced team of Parish Catechists.

This course is designed to help the candidates reflect on the meaning of their Catholic faith in their lives and how their faith affects the decisions they make. They will explore how the power of the Holy Spirit can transform their lives as disciples of Jesus Christ.

It is a time when parish and school, parents and priest, teachers and catechists all work together to enable the young people in their journey towards receiving the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation and to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as this parish community.

It is a time of blessing for families, it is a time when the faith we have can be renewed and revitalised. It is a time when we can all rejoice that our faith and the faith of the parish is something we care about, something alive, something to be passed on to the next generation.

It is the parish that bears special responsibility for the preparation of confirmands. Therefore, we will celebrate their enrolment and various stages in the journey of faith. This is usually at the Saturday Vigil Mass at 6.00pm.

Yours in Christ
Fr Paul