

Empowered by the Spirit: The Gift of Confirmation

Exploring Confirmation Together

6. The Gift of Service & the Gift of Confirmation

In this session we will be combining some of the material from Preparation Session 11 and from Preparation Session 12 to make one session. We will omit most of the material from Session 12.

You will need the 2 leaflets: Preparation Session 11 (The Gift of Service) and Preparation Session 12 (The Gift of Confirmation). We will cover some of the material from both leaflets. **Please do read through the rest of the material if you have time.**

You will also need to have the 2 cards for these sessions ready to take away to read and place on your Prayer Place when we have finished looking through the leaflets. The cards are *The Hail, Holy Queen* and *What happens at Confirmation?* The second card is available to download online.

Open the leaflet for Session 11. Remove the Activity Sheet and place it to one side.

Begin to read through the leaflet from page 2.

Let us pray

- Make the Sign of the Cross
- Pray the opening prayer (**Come Holy Spirit**) together

Read:

1. **The passage from the Bible** together (from St John's Gospel). **PAUSE** to reflect for a few moments after you have read the passage and then talk together about any words or phrases which have stood out for you.
2. What **YOUNG CATHOLIC** says.
3. What it says in the outline of the fruits. Do you remember what the other 9 fruits are?
4. The three paragraphs on page 3 under the heading **He came not to be served but to serve.**

OMIT the *Talk Together* section

Read what the leaflet says under the **Picture** heading in the right-hand column of page 3.

Take a little time to look closely at the picture on the front cover of the leaflet. As you look, think about these questions:

- What do you notice when you look at the picture?
- What does the picture make you feel or think about?
- What does this picture show us about service and serving others?

After 1-2 minutes of quiet looking, share with one another what you have been thinking about.

Read what the leaflet says about:

1. **Prayer** (at the end of page 3)
2. **St Peter** (over the page on page 4)

Talk together about the 1st bullet point (**OMIT the 2nd bullet point**)

- **St Peter knew that he wasn't perfect but he overcame his faults with the help of Jesus. How can we follow his example and become ever more faithful disciples of Jesus?**

Things to do at home

Read:

- Number 1 (about your Confirmation name)
- Number 3 (about writing to your Parish Priest)
- Number 4 (about praying *Grace before meals* and praying the *Hail, Holy Queen*).

Try to complete these activities before the celebration of Confirmation.

Before we end the session, place Activity Sheet 11 back in leaflet 11 and then have a look at the leaflet for **Preparation Session 12**.

Preparation Session 12 Leaflet

Take out Activity Sheet 12. Read it and fill in the gaps in the words to spell the 12 Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Here is the answer to the first sentence:

Faithfulness is being loyal and true – and proud to be a friend and follower of Jesus.

Read the four paragraphs on page 3 under the heading **Sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit**. This tells you what happens at Confirmation and what you have to do.

Place Activity Sheet 12 back in leaflet 12.

Look at the 2 cards which you have been given (*Hail, Holy Queen* and *What happens at Confirmation?*).

After the session, read through the *What happens at Confirmation* card and make sure that you know what to do and say when you celebrate your Confirmation. Pray the *Hail, Holy Queen* each night before you go to sleep. Keep the cards in your Prayer Place and read them regularly.

You will be told about any rehearsal for Confirmation and more details about what will happen on the day.

To end the session:

Pray the *Hail, Holy Queen* together.

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
Hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve:
To thee do we send up our sighs,
Mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.
Turn then, most gracious Advocate,
Thine eyes of mercy toward us,
And after this our exile, show unto us
The blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.
Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Stick the 'Self-control' and 'Chastity' stickers onto your Sticker Chart to show that you have completed this sixth session.

Our Continuing Journey in Faith

Take time to reflect on ways in which you may continue your faith journey as a family together. There are many ways in which you may show your love for God and for others (just as Jesus taught us).

Below there are a few examples of how (as children and as parents or carers) you may put your faith into action. You may:

- Continue to engage in private and family prayer
- Keep your special Prayer Place and continue to add things about your faith into your Reflection Book
- Read about Jesus and others who have lived their faith; a good way of doing this is by using resources which help you to read and reflect on the Bible, e.g. *The Wednesday Word* (www.wednesdayword.org)
- Become involved at Church during Holy Mass. Perhaps there may be an opportunity for either children or adults to:
 - present the gifts of bread and wine
 - help take the collection
 - read at Holy Mass
 - become an altar server

Ask your priest or catechist what may be possible in your own Parish

- Support and pray for members of the Church and wider community
- Join or start a Prayer Group
- Join groups to learn more about Catholicism, e.g. through courses developed by Sycamore and CaFE (your catechists may be able to tell you more about these and other local parish opportunities which help you to find out more about the Catholic faith)
- Join Catholic societies and organisations (many of our schools have a Mini Vinnies group and many of our parishes have the adult version: a Society of St Vincent de Paul group); both the Mini Vinnies and the SVP are dedicated to helping the poor and needy
- Joining a Social Action Group linked to the Church (e.g. a CAFOD group, a Justice and Peace Group, etc.)
- Care for God's creation in charitable works which care for the world (for the climate and its creatures)
- Look at your parish website or the Leeds Diocesan website (www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk) to find out about events and other activities which you may be able to join in with