

# The Sacrament of Confirmation

## Symbols connected with Confirmation:

- Dove – repeatedly seen as a symbol of the Holy Spirit throughout the Bible
- Water – symbol for Baptism; connects Baptism and Confirmation because water regenerates and renews
- Fire – tongues of fire descended on the apostles at Pentecost
  - At Pentecost: The Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles following the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ, and it marks the beginning of the Christian church's mission to the world.
- Oil – messiah in Hebrew means 'anointed one'. Jesus is the Messiah, the one uniquely anointed by the Holy Spirit. Jesus pours out this same Spirit upon us.
  - This perfumed oil at Confirmation marks our total belonging to Christ and our sharing in his mission; just as the smell of perfume spreads through a room, so must we spread Christ's Fragrance wherever we go.

## The Rite of Confirmation, celebrated during the celebration of the Eucharist, is in four parts:

### 1. Presentation of the Candidates

*After the Gospel, the parish priest will present the candidates for Confirmation. At baptism, the child was presented by being carried into the church by their parents. Now the candidates are asked to present themselves to the Christian community.*

### 2. Renewal of Baptismal Promises

*After a homily by the bishop, the young people are asked to stand to renew the promises made for them at Baptism by their parents and godparents. In this way they are committing themselves anew to following Christ. They make a declaration of faith in God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Church.*

### 3. The Laying on of Hands

*The bishop begins the ceremony by asking everyone to pray for the candidates. After this prayer the bishop and extends hands invoking the Holy Spirit on the candidates.*

### 4. Anointing with Chrism.

*Then the candidates approach the bishop accompanied by their sponsor. The sponsor places a hand on the child's right shoulder. The bishop calls each individual by their Confirmation name and traces the Sign of the Cross with chrism on the child's forehead saying the words 'Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit'. Then the bishop offers the sign of peace. After the sacrament is conferred, Mass continues and the newly confirmed receive the Eucharist*

## The Rite of Confirmation is a tangible experience, capable of being perceived by the senses:

- See/Touch: Laying on of Hands, Anointing with Chrism, the Sign of Peace
- Smell: Smelling the perfumed oil in the air
- Hear: Hearing the words "Be sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit."