

Sacramental Journey

Confirmation



Lessons for Teachers
and Parish Catechists

In accordance with Canons 823 and 827.1 approval and permission for publication is granted for the following catechetical publication:

Sacramental Journey

Nihil Obstat



Philip J Kerr, S.T.L
Censor Deputatus

Imprimatur



+Stephen Robson STD, JCL
Delegate of the Apostolic Administrator
Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh

15th August 2013

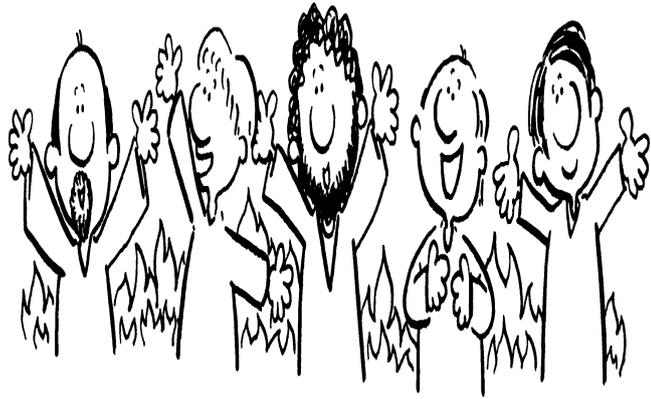
Solemnity of the Assumption

The *Nihil Obstat* and *Imprimatur* are a declaration that a book or pamphlet is considered to be free from doctrinal or moral error. This does not necessarily mean that those who have granted the *Nihil Obstat* and *Imprimatur* agree with the contents, opinions or statements expressed.

Written by Audrey Newton & Moira Claase © 2013

The images in this book have been taken from “Signs of Life” clip art for church, school and home life © 2001 Kourtney Harper & McCrimmon Publishing Co. Ltd

Table of Contents



Introduction: Page 2

Lesson 1: Called by Name to Serve in the Community of Faith - Page 3

Lesson 2: The Holy Spirit in the Lives of Jesus and Mary and Me - Page 4

Lesson 3: The Pentecost Event: The Holy Spirit brings Strength and Courage - Page 5

Lesson 4: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Pages 6 & 7

Lesson 5: The Fruits of the Holy Spirit - Pages 8 & 9

Lesson 6: Stepping Stones on my Journey of Faith - Pages 10 & 11

Lesson 7: The Celebration/Rite of Confirmation - Page 12

Lesson 8: The Saints Listened and Responded to God's Word - Page 13

Lesson 9: Called to be Holy - Page 14

Lesson 10: The Holy Spirit Inspired the Saints and Inspires us today - Pages 15 & 16

Prayer Partners - Page 17

Introduction

This programme of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation covers the catechetical elements of this sacrament. Children may also be expected to participate in a number of parish based activities and rites related to Confirmation which will vary from parish to parish.

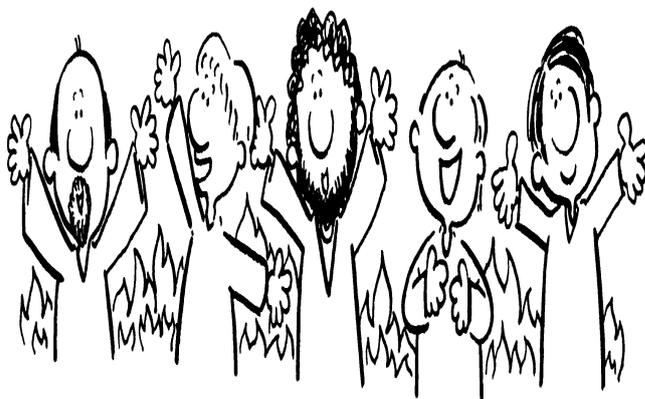
As the Sacrament of Confirmation takes place at various times of the year in different parishes, one suggestion would be to allow 7 or 8 weeks within which the entire catechetical preparation for this sacrament could be completed.

Suggested time scales are given for each lesson. Depending on circumstances in individual schools, lessons may be carried out twice weekly or at the class teacher's discretion. Similarly, teachers may wish to allocate more than one teaching session to a particular lesson or lessons.

There are many good children's Bibles available but we would recommend *The Everyday Children's Bible* ISBN 978-085231-3367. Scripture references are also given so that teachers and catechists can source the readings from other Bibles.

After every lesson there is a Follow-up task to be completed in class and also a Home Session. These activities relate to the particular lesson taught that day.

You may wish to give each child a Prayer Partner so that they can listen to one another and mark off their successes on the Prayer Sheet which is included in this pack.



Lesson 4 The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Time scale: 45 minutes

Main teaching points:

The Holy Spirit is given to us in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Holy Spirit brings gifts which will bear fruit in our lives.

The origin of the tradition of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit is to be found in Isaiah 11:1-4. To help children understand the gifts, you could show the children seven packages (labelled with the names of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: *Courage, Knowledge, Reverence, Right Judgement, Understanding, Wisdom, Wonder and Awe*)

Discuss how we celebrate birthdays by having a party, receiving cards and gifts, etc. Explain that the first Pentecost was the ‘**birth day**’ of the Church, the Family of God. We celebrate this **birthday** every Pentecost Sunday. These packages represent the seven gifts that the Holy Spirit brought to God’s Family on that ‘birthday’.

Revise the Pentecost story from the previous lesson: *Ten days after Jesus had gone back to Heaven, Jesus’ mother and his friends had gathered together in a room when they heard the sound of a powerful wind. Then something like flames appeared above their heads and they were filled with the Holy Spirit.*

Ask some children to inflate some red, yellow and orange balloons. As the apostles and Mary were being filled with the Holy Spirit, they might have felt a bit like these balloons as they experienced the great wind. Include the balloons as part of *Gifts of the Spirit* display or take the children outside on a breezy day to release them into the air.

Explain that the Holy Spirit brought special gifts to the disciples and Mary.

At Confirmation the Holy Spirit will bring these same gifts to us to help us to be more like Jesus and to continue his work.

What are these gifts?

Invite the children to open each of the seven packages you have prepared and to read out the name of each gift. Explain the meaning of each gift and discuss with the children how they could use the gift:

Wisdom - helps us to learn from our mistakes and from what we are taught by others.

Courage - helps us to speak up for what we know is right.

Right Judgement - helps us to make good choices and choose the right actions.

Reverence - helps us to pray better and treat everyone with respect

Knowledge - helps us to know God and Jesus better from inside our hearts.

Awe and Wonder - help us to thank God for his loving presence in our lives.

Understanding - helps us to be kind and love God and others better.

The children could carry out a craft activity where they could cut out a dove template and seven tear drop shapes and write the names of the gifts of the Spirit on them. Attach these with string or ribbon to the dove and suspend them from the ceiling.

Explain that Jesus too used the gifts of the Spirit in his life to bring the good news of God's love to the people he met.

He taught in parables and preached with WISDOM.

He showed UNDERSTANDING to those who were poor, sick or in any kind of trouble.

He used RIGHT JUDGEMENT when the Pharisees tried to trick him.

He faced his own suffering and journey to Jerusalem with COURAGE.

He prayed constantly to KNOW God's will.

He always showed REVERENCE to God the Father and to other human beings.

He was filled with WONDER and AWE at all God created.

Ask the children to give concrete examples of Jesus using these gifts.

Finish with the following prayer (taken directly from the Confirmation Rite)

Send your Holy Spirit to be our helper and guide.

Give us the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding,

The Spirit of Right Judgement and Courage,

The Spirit of Knowledge and Reverence.

Fill us with the Spirit of Wonder and Awe in your presence.

Children can pray with their Prayer Partner:

"Come Holy Spirit, fill my heart

Kindle in me the fire of your love."



Children complete Class Task 4 and Home Session 4.