

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION SERVICES

GENERAL NOTES FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN PREPARATION

In response to requests from parish clergy responsible for preparing orders of service for Confirmations, the Bishops have authorised a set of service outlines which can be easily adapted for local use. There are four variants:

- Confirmation outside of Holy Communion
- Confirmation at Holy Communion
- Baptism and Confirmation outside of Holy Communion
- Baptism and Confirmation at Holy Communion

As far as possible, the outlines have been designed to eliminate ambiguous rubrics and decisions about elements to be included and omitted. Where a decision on the part of the hosting parish is required, the relevant rubric is printed in uppercase italic, and in red for those with colour printers. Please adjust such rubrics to fit local practice.

Those working from the outline services should note the following:

- Please consult the Bishop before deciding upon readings. On major festivals it is appropriate to use the readings for the day.
- Suitable positions for hymns or songs are suggested, and appear in red type.
- If the service is to take place in the context of the Eucharist, it is easiest for the Bishop and for the congregation if the full order of service is contained within one booklet. The complete text of the Eucharistic Prayer should be included.
- Some items in the service are optional e.g. the lighting of a large candle at the Decision; the inclusion of testimonies; the sprinkling of confirmation candidates with water from the font; and the inclusion of a Commission. If these are to be included, the order of service should contain a clear rubric in a definite form. Also, thought should be given to logistics e.g. assistants with tapers to light candles. It takes much longer to distribute lighted candles than the instruction in the service suggests.
- The Bishops are always pleased to anoint candidates for baptism and confirmation. Please let the Bishop know in advance if there is to be anointing. Should the hosting parish not have a supply of oils, the Bishop will bring an oil stock. The appropriate position for anointing is indicated in the texts. At baptism, pre-baptismal anointing requires the Oil of Catechumens, while anointing after baptism (and at confirmation) requires the Oil of Chrism.
- A thorough rehearsal is an essential tool for reassuring the candidates and familiarising them with the service, particularly those parts of it which require them to move.

Please let the confirming Bishop have a draft order of service well before final printing takes place, so that all parties have a clear picture of the running order.