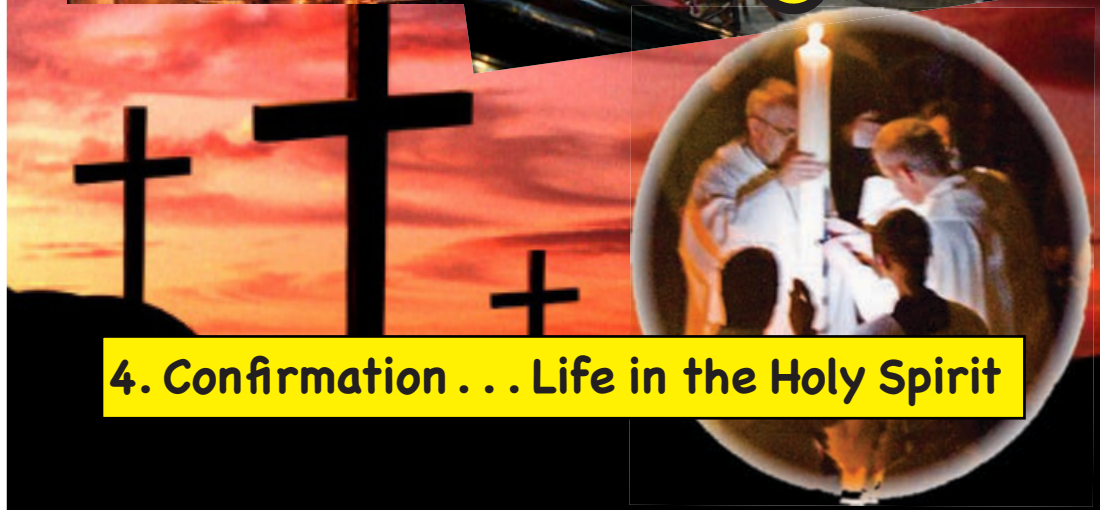


CRASH COURSE for young people who want to follow **Jesus**



4. Confirmation . . . Life in the Holy Spirit

A PRAYER AS I GET READY FOR MY CONFIRMATION DAY

Father God,
help me to be ready
for your Holy Spirit
to be poured into my heart
when I am confirmed.

Make me strong in your love;
so that I will be able to reach out to those
who feel that life has no meaning.

Help me to be gentle
in sharing with those
who are lonely or sad.

Whether I live to old age or die young,
whatever plan you have for my life,
help me to have a firm trust
in your wonderful promises.

Help me to love you
with all my heart, mind, soul and strength,
and to love those
you send into my life.

May your Holy Spirit
help me to be brave enough
and strong enough
to continue the journey I am beginning.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

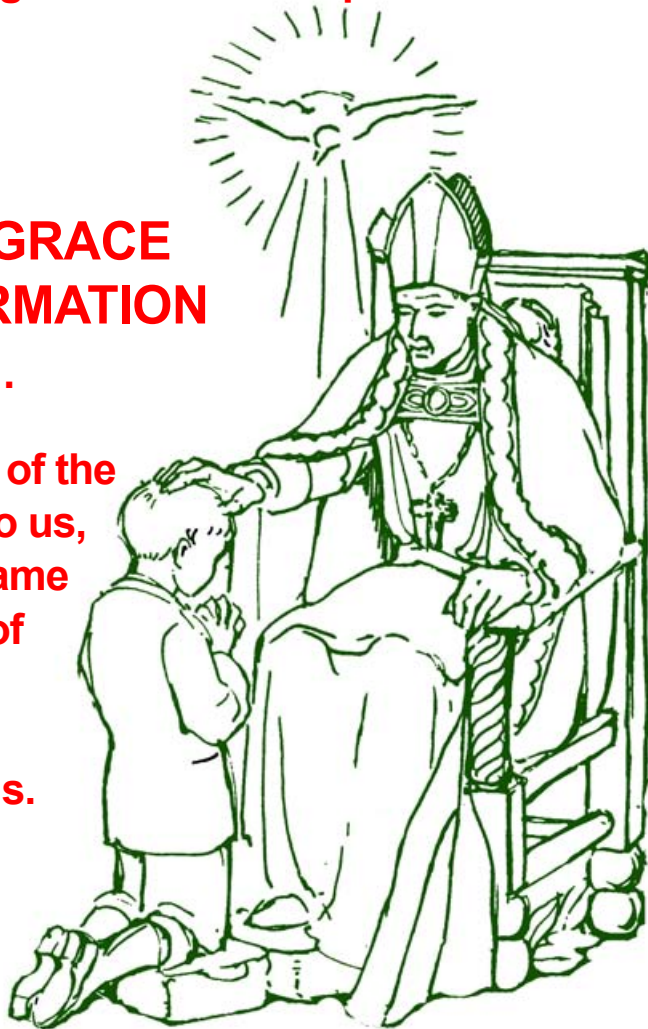
The **OUTWARD SIGN** in **CONFIRMATION** is

The anointing with the oil of Chrism,
and
the laying on of the bishop's hand.

The **INWARD GRACE** in **CONFIRMATION**

is . . .

The coming of the
Holy Spirit to us,
just as he came
on the Day of
Pentecost,
to help us
live for Jesus.



Confirmation . . . Life in the Holy Spirit

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?



Some people think that God is
a **POWERFUL FORCE**.

Others think that God is
a **CLEVER INTELLIGENCE**.

The followers of Jesus have
discovered that . . .

GOD IS LOVE

During his life on earth,
Jesus showed us that
at the centre of everything is a

**COMMUNITY
OF LOVE**

IN THE BIBLE . . .

Jesus always points us to
God the Father
and teaches us how to pray to him.

Jesus shows us that he himself is
God the Son
who came into the world to save us.

Jesus also teaches us that we can
know the love and power of
God the Holy Spirit
in our lives.

**God the Father,
God the Son
and
God the Holy Spirit**

**- Three Persons,
One God.**

**We call this
community of love**

the Holy Trinity

Jesus knew that he would die on the cross, rise from the dead and pass from our sight into heaven.

So he spent three years training his APOSTLES to go out and tell the **GOOD NEWS** to everyone.

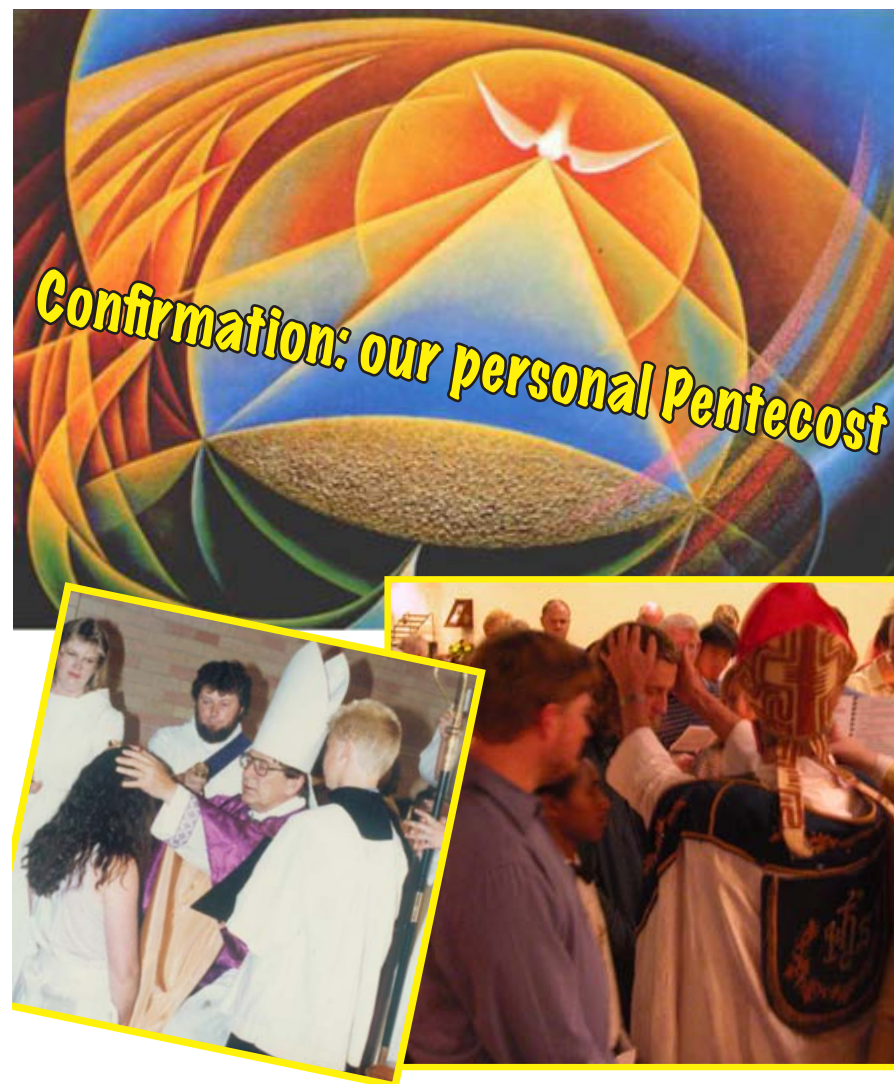
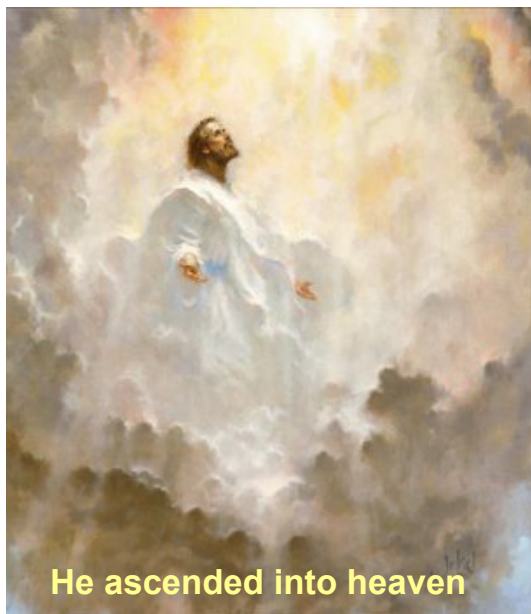
He wants all people to have their sins forgiven and become part of God's special family, the Church.

WAIT!

Jesus also knew that the apostles would need **EXTRA STRENGTH** for such a difficult task. In John 14 we read how he promised to send them **THE HOLY SPIRIT**.

Standing on the mountain just before the cloud took him away to heaven, Jesus told his followers NOT to go out just yet (in their own strength) but to go back and pray, and WAIT for something wonderful to happen. He said:

“You will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses . . . to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)



The Holy Spirit gives us the strength to “witness” for Jesus in our daily lives, so that others will come to know him.

Because it is sometimes really hard to do this, we should rely more and more on the Holy Spirit.

**WAS THE SPECIAL COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
AT PENTECOST JUST FOR
THE *FIRST* FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?**

Not according to St Peter.

He said that if those who were listening to him gave their lives to Jesus and were baptized, they, too, would experience the same outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

He said that this applied, not only them, but to ALL who would follow of Jesus - even you and me. (see Acts 2:38-39).

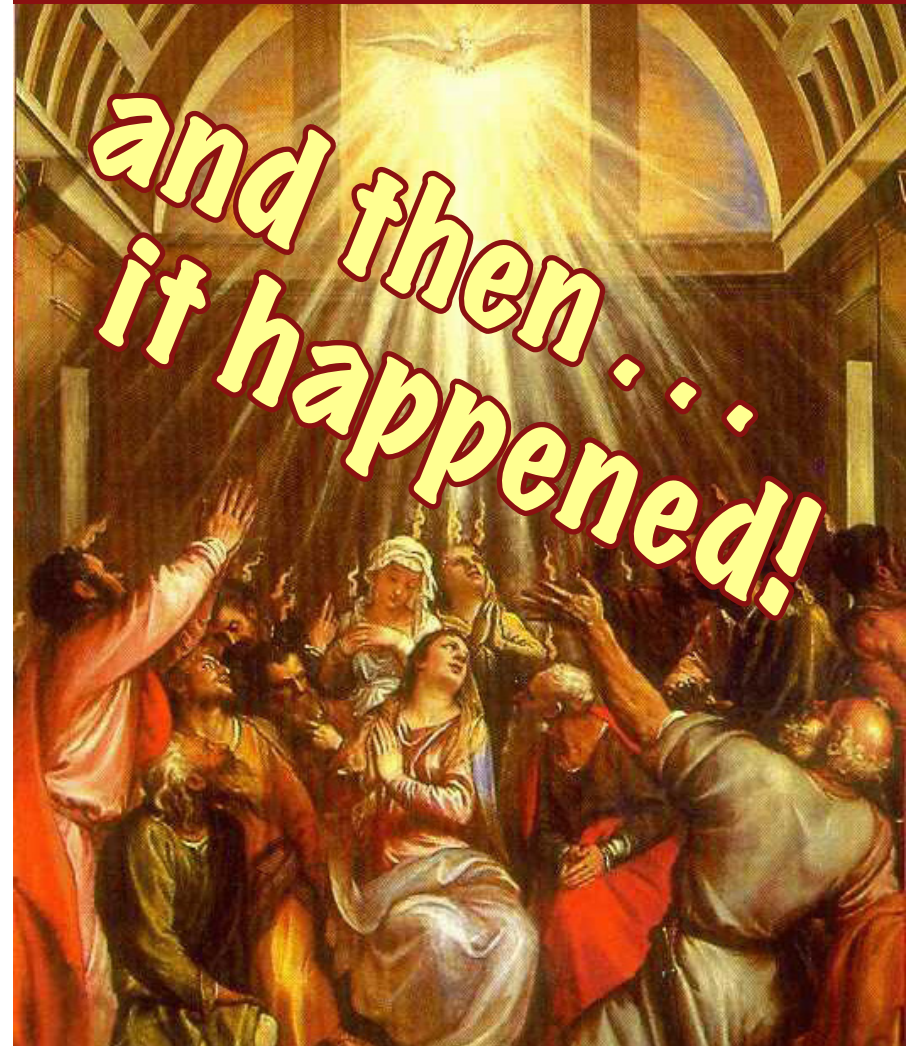
In other words, God wants ALL OF US to be like the first Christians and live for Jesus, not in our *own* strength, but in the power of the Holy Spirit.

From then until now, when people are baptized, the bishop prays for them that they may receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit. In our church, this is called **THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**.

For many hundreds of years it happened as part of the baptism service. These days, BAPTISM and CONFIRMATION are often separated in time - even by some years.



For nine days the apostles and the other followers of Jesus prayed. Mary, the Mother of Jesus, prayed with them. All told, there were 120 people.



On the tenth day - Pentecost Sunday - Jesus kept his promise and sent the Holy Spirit. You can read all about it in Acts Chapter 2.

A sound came from heaven "like a mighty rushing wind" and filled the house where they were sitting. There appeared what looked like tongues of fire, which parted and came to rest on each of them. They were **FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT** and began to speak the praises of God in a range of different languages.

The people who heard this wanted to know what it was all about. So St Peter raised his voice, and told thousands in the street about Jesus.

What a changed man Peter was, now that he had been filled with the Holy Spirit. Not long before - on the night Jesus was betrayed - Peter had been too frightened to admit that he even knew Jesus!

Three thousand people who heard St Peter preach decided to become followers of Jesus that day, and they were baptised.

What a great start for the Church, God's special family!



SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Because the Holy Spirit is **INVISIBLE**, it helps to use picture language to talk about having him in our lives. The Bible says that the Holy Spirit is like . . .

WIND

We cannot see the wind, but we can sometimes feel it. We can always see what it does.



This tells us that while the Holy Spirit works as secretly as the wind, we can see the *effects* of his work in our lives and in the lives of others.

WATER

In the land where the Bible was written, water was very hard to get. When someone came to a well, a spring or a fountain after travelling through the desert, their thirst was satisfied.



In the same way our 'inner thirst', the thirst of our souls, is satisfied by the Holy Spirit who is like a river or spring within us.

FIRE

Fire burns up the rubbish. It also warms us when we are cold.

This tells us that the Holy Spirit works in our hearts to burn up the rubbish deep down inside . . . the things that stop us loving Jesus and each other.



OIL



In Bible days, oil was poured on those who were set aside by God for special tasks . . . as prophets, priests and kings. The oil was a sign that they were God's in a special way.

This tells us that the Holy Spirit sets us apart from the world around us to live and work for God.

A DOVE



The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus "in the form of a dove" when he was baptized in the Jordan River. The dove is a symbol of new beginnings. It is also a symbol of peace.

The dove is a very gentle bird and easily sent away, reminding us that the Holy Spirit will not force himself upon us. He only stays where he is welcome.