

SESSION PLAN

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

12 But what's gonna happen

The Confirmation Ceremony

AIMS

1. To provide an opportunity for candidates to gain a better understanding of how Confirmation will be celebrated.
2. To reflect on the various Signs and Symbols used in Confirmation and to know their meaning.
3. To think about and identify ways of how to take an active part in the Church after Confirmation.

PRAYER

- Point out that this is the last session in the preparation programme
- Introduce the prayer 'Almost there...'
- Read the prayer and invite candidates to reflect on its words especially the final words 'Come Holy Spirit'.

KEY WORDS

- Presentation of Candidates
- Ren. Of Baptism Vows
- Laying of Hands
- Anointing with Chrism
- Bishop
- Name of Saint
- Sign of Peace
- Sponsor

RESOURCES

- Worksheet 12
- Prayer Sheet 12
- Oil of Chrism

NOTES

As this is the last session in the programme you may wish to remind and give notices about future dates and times e.g. practice session; Confirmation Mass and any other follow up gatherings.

MAIN SESSION

- Introduce this main part by briefly discussing the main aims of this session as shown above.
- Read through the first section of Part A to identify and briefly discuss the four main parts. Show the key words (see CD folder: Key words) or write them on whiteboard/flipchart. These will be looked at in more depth later on in this session.
- Move on to the next part. Invite candidates to read out one sentence at a time and to provide the missing words. Lead the discussion on each of the words they are using: *Apostles; Word; evil; faith; hands; God; witnesses; name; sponsor; hand; head; anoints; oil; Gift; Holy Spirit; peace.*
- Move on to part B to discuss in more depth the signs and symbols used at Confirmation. Invite candidates to write brief notes for each as the discussion develops. Talk about the main ideas related to each, namely:
 1. Name of Saint: In many countries the Christian Name of the candidate is used. In some places candidates choose the name of a Saint - a model person for imitation.
 2. Laying of Hands: The bishop's gesture as he invokes the Holy Spirit: also a gesture used to show God is choosing someone for a mission.
 3. Anointing with Oil of Chrism: A sign showing the seal/mark of receiving the Holy Spirit 'Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit'; also a sign that marks our total belonging to Christ.
 4. Sign of Peace: a sign of communion with bishop and the Church.
- Also explain that celebrating Confirmation shouldn't be the end of the road. It is an important milestone which should make us more mature and ready to become more active as Christians. Encourage all candidates to try their best to show their commitment to Jesus and the Church by being active in the Parish or diocese in the best way they can.
- Finish by inviting all candidates to write a short reflection or prayer in the space provided at the end of their worksheet. They could write about the future after Confirmation or a reflection about their Confirmation programme which is now coming to and end.

CONCLUSION/REFLECTION

- Introduce and read out the Concluding prayer (see Prayer sheet). Explain that this is a very important prayer which the Bishop says as he is laying hands on candidates, asking the Holy Spirit to come and give his Gifts to each candidate.
- Finish by inviting a few volunteers to read out prayers or reflections they have written at the end of the main session.