

## Changes to the Rite of Confirmation



The revised translation of the Rite of Confirmation has been published (January 2016). This is part of the ongoing process initiated by the Holy See in 2002 to revise and review translations of the different sacramental rites of the Church across the world. The first of these to be completed was the new translation of the Mass introduced in England & Wales in September 2011.

The Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship has now approved the English translations for the Rites of Marriage and Confirmation and the Bishops' Conference have received them and announced that from Easter 2016 the new translations are to be used.<sup>1</sup>

The new translation of the Rite of Confirmation has a revised text for the prayer of Confirmation that takes place during The Laying on of Hands. You will notice in this prayer that the titles given to the gifts of the Holy Spirit have changed from the previous translation.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who brought these your servants to new birth  
by water and the Holy Spirit,  
freeing them from sin:  
send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete;  
give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and fortitude,  
the spirit of knowledge and piety;  
fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
R: Amen

As part of the process of change the clergy across the Archdiocese of Birmingham are receiving instruction during March 2016. Schools will receive further guidance and instruction through INSET courses already planned for the summer term (please refer to BCPP for further details about the Confirmation Course).

### What needs to happen now?

- Any Confirmations taking place from the Easter Vigil **26 March 2016** onwards **must** use the revised Prayer of Confirmation that accompanies the Laying on of Hands.
- Schools and parishes need to **ensure** that **this revised version** of the Prayer of Confirmation is **included in any booklets** produced for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Teachers will need to ensure the children being confirmed in the summer term and beyond are aware of the new language being used to describe the Gifts of the Holy Spirit which they are to receive through the Sacrament and that they understand the terminology.

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.”

1 Corinthians 12:4-8

<sup>1</sup> Bishops' Conference Press Release 30 November 2015 [www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/News](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/News)

## About the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

In the Catechism the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are identified: "The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. They belong in their fullness to Christ. They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them."<sup>2</sup>

In the Laying on of hands the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are bestowed upon us. As with any gift we have to use it in order for it to be effective in our lives.

### Gifts of the Holy Spirit

<b>then</b>	<b>now</b>	
wisdom and understanding	wisdom and understanding	wisdom = perception, good judgement, astuteness understanding = comprehension, perception, interpretation
right judgement and courage	counsel and fortitude	counsel = advice, direction, warning to others fortitude = strength, courage, resilience, determination
knowledge and reverence	knowledge and piety	piety = devotion, virtue, faithfulness, reverence
wonder and awe	fear of the Lord	fear = awe, wonder, veneration, worship

Wisdom is the gift which enables us to know and recognise God in our lives and ensuring that we keep God central in everything we say and do. It enables us to use our knowledge of God and of his desire that we serve him by serving others too. Wisdom brings into fullness the gift of faith bestowed upon us at Baptism.

Understanding is the gift which enables us to move beyond our knowledge of God and to be able to interpret and comprehend what he desires for each one of us.

Counsel is the gift which enables us to seek answers when faced with difficult choices and situations in life. We use this gift through prayer and reflection in order to discern God's will and to act upon it.

Fortitude is the gift which strengthens us and enables us to have the courage and determination to be a follower of Christ. It also gives us the resilience to continue to do what is right despite other pressures, influences and distractions.

Knowledge is the gift which allows us to recognise how God is revealed to us through scripture and through the teachings and traditions of the Church.

Piety is the gift which enables us to pray to God faithfully and reverently. With piety we are able to show our devotion to God through the many practices of devotion and worship available to us through the traditions of the Church.

Fear of the Lord is the gift which enables us to acknowledge that God is almighty and all-powerful. We use this gift to show our amazement of God's wondrousness and in doing so we also acknowledge our own humility before him.

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<sup>2</sup> CCC 1831