

Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist – Confirmation Services 2017



The Confirmation Service

Please use these notes to prepare, so that we can have a great service! †Martin

Goals:

1. An opportunity for the confirmation candidates to confirm and testify to their own faith.
2. Anointing and ministry for empowering with the Holy Spirit for Christian witness & service.
3. Teaching about the vision and goals of the Diocese and what they means for us.



Mark 1:15

Some General Notes:

1. I expect all confirmation candidates to complete at least **Book 1 of "Rooted in Jesus"** before they are confirmed.
2. We will use the liturgical colour **red** for Confirmations.
3. Please do not exceed the **maximum of 65** candidates per service! I am very happy to have several services per parish.
4. Make sure that leaders and candidates are **on time**. Those who arrive too late cannot expect to be confirmed.
5. Any candidates who need it should be baptised **before** the day of the Confirmation, but you are welcome to discuss this with me.
6. Remember – candidates should be at least **14 years old** on or before the day of Confirmation.

<u>"Shape" or Outline</u>	<u>Content & Details</u>	<u>Values or Theology</u>	<u>Parish Preparation</u>
Synaxis	APB p 104-108		
Gathering (1-2)	Procession †Martin does the Greeting (1).	Shared ministry is important – so we need clergy & lay leaders involved	Everyone on duty should be at church at least 30 minutes early!
Praise & Preparation (3-8)	The Worship Leaders can take over for this section	Praise & worship: both liturgical and spontaneous	Please make sure that those leading parts of the service know that they are on duty well ahead of time – so that they can prepare properly.
Penitence (9-14)	Confession of sins Absolution – †Martin	1 John 1:5-9. Genuine repentance leads to forgiveness & healed relationships	
Collect (15)	Confirmation Collect: APB p 365 (14)	We pray that the candidates, and all of us, will be filled with the Holy Spirit	If possible this can be printed or projected for all to join in.
Testimonies	Two or three short testimonies, or candidates reciting memory verses from Rooted in Jesus, or a short drama about what their faith means to them...	Before we are confirmed we should: 1. Be able to speak about a personal relationship with God 2. Show what we have some understanding of the Bible	Make sure this is well planned, that they have practiced, and that you have checked what they are going to say!
The Word of God	Readings for 2017 Old Testament Exodus 18:13-27 Psalm Psalm 24 New Testament Hebrews 10:23-25 Gospel Matthew 16:13-25 Sermon †Martin	The reading and proclaiming of God's Word is central to Anglican worship <i>I have chosen a special set of readings that will enable me to preach and teach about the vision and goals of the Diocese..</i>	If some of the candidates are good at reading, let them share in the readings. Please do not chant the gospel! I prefer it to be read normally, so that everyone can hear and understand. If interpretation is needed, please make sure that it is arranged beforehand.

<u>Confirmation</u>	<u>APB p 390-394</u> Replaces the Creed & Prayers		<i>Please tell the congregation: no photographs while we are praying for the candidates, please!</i>
Renewal of Baptismal Vows (72-76)	Renunciation Allegiance Commitment – congregation & candidates	This is more than an intellectual agreement, but a commitment of our lives. That is why Rooted in Jesus is an important part of the preparation.	Please make sure they understand what they are doing! I don't want to see them searching through the Prayer Book as though they have never seen the service before!
Invocation of Holy Spirit (77-80)	Hymn to the Holy Spirit: it does not have to be the one in the Prayer Book.	This can be a very special time of preparing ourselves for ministry	Choose a suitable hymn or song beforehand.
Ministry (81)	This can be done kneeling or standing. I would like a team of people to <i>join me</i> in praying.	The important thing is that it is not just a ritual, but a time of <i>real ministry</i> . Team ministry – listening to God <i>together</i> , open to words and guidance of the Holy Spirit.	Select and train your ministry team. They should know how to listen to God, see what he is doing, and support in prayer. Labels: Only <i>one first name</i> please!
(Admission from Other Churches)	<u>(APB p 399-401)</u> Only if required		Please make sure that the Bishop's Office has been informed in advance.
Prayers (82-86)	†Martin will usually lead these prayers, but may ask the clergy for help.		
Welcome	I usually invite the newly confirmed to join me at the front of the church.	An opportunity to rejoice, and celebrate the step of faith that they have taken.	<i>Now some photographs may be taken</i>
<u>Communion</u>	<u>APB p 115-128</u>		
The Peace (44-46)	During the Peace, those who have been confirmed return to their places.	Matthew 5:23-24. Not only a time to be happy and greet friends, but also to <i>make peace</i> with others.	
Offertory (47-50)	Presentation of Gifts Preparation of the Lord's Table	<i>Jesus took bread and wine</i>	Remember: the offertory is for Bishop's Ordination Candidate's Fund
The Great Thanksgiving (51-78)	Eucharistic Prayer The Lord's Prayer	<i>Jesus gave thanks</i> I like the clergy to join me around the Lord's table to illustrate our unity.	
The Breaking of Bread (79-80)	Breaking of Bread (Lamb of God – may be moved to later)	<i>Jesus broke the bread</i>	Please make sure that you have a proper Priest's wafer.
The Communion (81-85)	Invitation Distribution of Communion Blessing of Children Ministry of healing, etc	<i>Jesus gave the bread and wine</i> This is a time of intimate fellowship with God, & we can expect him to meet people in many ways.	We need to build up and train ministry and healing teams in our congregations and parishes.

<u>Conclusion</u>	<u>APB p 129</u>		
Thanksgiving & Commitment (86-88)			
Certificates	This takes place just before the Blessing and Dismissal.		Please have the certificates and confirmation register well prepared! <i>People are welcome to take photographs at this time.</i>
Blessing and Dismissal	†Martin		
After the Service			Please protect me from too many demands for photographs!

Thank you for your hard work in preparing the candidates and this service!

†Martin