

**NEWCASTLE CHURCH RELATIONS GROUP
JOINT CONFIRMATION SERVICE 2000 NOTES TO ACCOMPANY THE SERVICE**

- A** There shall be careful preparation of the candidates and this must include instruction about different denominational practices and the rationale for them.
- B** The confirming ministers shall be the Bishop and the minister(s) with pastoral responsibility for the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Church members of the LEP except that, where the minister with pastoral responsibility for the Baptist, Methodist and/or United Reformed Church members is an Anglican minister, the confirming minister(s) for those denominations shall be appropriate representatives of those denominations.
- C** Other ministers (including lay ministers) may conduct appropriate parts of the service.
- D** Where there is no indication as to who shall conduct a particular part of the service, the LEP concerned may make proposals to the participating ministers as to what is appropriate for a particular occasion.
- E** The preacher should be of a different denomination to that of the preacher on the previous occasion when a Joint Confirmation took place in a particular LEP and the person who presides at the Communion should be of a different denomination to that of the preacher.
- F** The person who presides at the Communion should be of a different denomination to that of the person who presided at the Communion on the previous occasion when a Joint Confirmation took place in a particular LEP.
- G** Every effort should be made to comply with E & F but flexibility and common sense should prevail.
- H** The person who presides at the Communion shall use an authorised rite of his or her denomination or an ecumenical rite which has been approved for use in a particular LEP, or, if a minister who is exercising ministry on behalf of a denomination other than his or her own, an authorised rite of the denomination on whose behalf he or she is exercising ministry.
- I** Where a section number is given in **bold** type, that section is obligatory.
- J** Instructions as to what shall or may happen, and as to posture, are given in **red**. Where there is no such instruction, the LEP concerned may decide what is appropriate for a particular occasion.
- K** A statement about what is going to happen in the service must be included in the printed order of service or given verbally at the start of the service. The wording of this statement must have been agreed by all of the participating ministers beforehand.
- L** Hymns, psalms, songs or other musical items may be inserted at appropriate points (for instance, before sections 2, 4, 6, 11, 19, 21).
- M** The Prayer at section 2 may include Confession and Absolution or Declaration of God's Forgiveness, using a form authorised for use in one of the partner denominations.
- N** The whole congregation may join in the action in section 9, if the LEP concerned so decides.
- O** At section 13, the confirming ministers lay their hands simultaneously on each individual candidate and say the words together. If there are candidates who are to be confirmed into a single denomination, the appropriate confirming minister alone lays hands on those candidates and says the words alone.
- P** In an LEP where there is more than one participating congregation, section 17 shall take place in the appropriate local churches on the following Sunday.
- Q** If an LEP wishes to vary this order of service, if there is also to be a baptism or if there are unusual features with regard to the service, the ministers or the candidates, there must be consultation at the earliest opportunity. Initially this consultation should be with the appropriate denominational ecumenical officers.

- 1 The minister who is to preside at the Holy Communion greets the congregation with these or similar words

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.
There is one body and one spirit.
There is one hope to which we are called;
One Lord, one faith, one baptism,
One God and Father of all.
Peace be with you.
And also with you.

- 2 Prayer

- 3 Bible Reading

- 4 Reading from the Gospels

Sit

- 5 The Sermon

- 6 The candidates are presented to the congregation. Where appropriate, they are presented by their godparents or sponsors.

You have come here to be confirmed. You now stand in the presence of Christ and his Church.

Have you been baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?
I have.

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

I am.

Do you turn away from evil and all that denies God?

By the grace of God, I do.

Do you turn to God,
trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour,
and in the Holy Spirit as Helper and Guide?

By the grace of God, I do.

May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ, give you strength to follow in his way.
Amen.

- 7 The ministers and Confirmation candidates may gather at the font.

Stand

- 8 Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with these *candidates* the faith of the Church

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,**

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

9 **The candidates may come forward to the font and sign themselves with water.**

10 Almighty God,
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith
with all who have been baptised into your name.
Keep us faithful to the promises made at our baptism,
and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen

11 **The ministers and candidates gather at the place of confirmation**

12 Almighty and everliving God
by your power and grace
strengthen *these* your *servants*
that *they* may live as *faithful disciples* of Jesus Christ.
Increase in *them* your gifts of grace.
Let your Holy Spirit rest upon *them*:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding; **Amen**,
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength; **Amen**,
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness; **Amen**,
and let *their* delight be in the fear of the Lord. **Amen.**

13 **The confirming ministers lay their hands on the heads of the candidates, saying**

N, God has called you by name and made you his own.

Confirm, O Lord, your servant *N*.
Strengthen *her/him* with your Holy Spirit
that *she/he* may continue yours for ever.

14 **Defend, O Lord, these your *servants* with your heavenly grace,
that *they* may continue yours for ever,
bearing the fruits of the Spirit
and growing into the full stature of Christ. Amen.**

15 Members of the body of Christ, we rejoice that *these*, our *sisters and brothers*, have been confirmed.

Will you so maintain the Church's life of worship and service that *they* may grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord?
With God's help, we will.

16 *N*, I declare you to be *members* of the (*insert appropriate denominations*) and I invite the congregation to greet and welcome you.

There may be applause or other appropriate symbols and gestures.

17 *A representative of the local church greets, in his or her own words, each of the newly confirmed individually, giving the right hand of fellowship.*

18 We are the Body of Christ.
**In the one Spirit
we were all baptised into one body.
Let us therefore keep the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.**

Other appropriate words, suitable to the season of the Church's year, may be used.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

19 The Communion

20 **We praise you, God, for the bread of heaven
and the cup of salvation which you give for the life of the world.
With this food for our journey bring us with your saints
to the feast of glory. Amen.**

or

God of mercy, by whose grace alone we are accepted
and equipped for your service:
stir up in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit and make us worthy of our calling;
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

or some other appropriate prayer.

21 All those who are baptised and confirmed are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
With the help of God, we will.
Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
With the help of God, we will.
Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?
With the help of God, we will.
Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?
With the help of God, we will.
Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?
With the help of God, we will.
May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

22 The Blessing