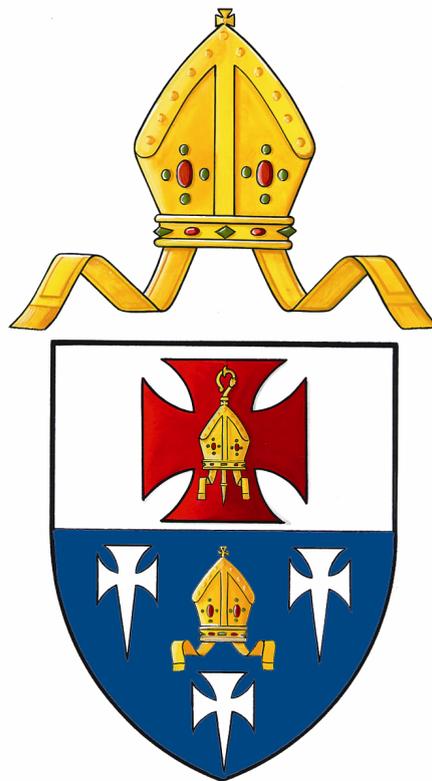


**UNITED DIOCESES  
OF CORK, CLOYNE AND ROSS**



**SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION  
CHURCH OF SAINT JAMES, DURRUS  
SUNDAY 3RD JULY 2022  
SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE**

# THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*The Bishop greets the people:*

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

There is one body and one spirit.

**There is one hope to which we were called;**

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

**one God and Father of all.**

Peace be with you

**and also with you.**

*The Bishop introduces the service. Then, all stand to sing*

## HYMN 295

Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove,  
with light and comfort from above;  
be thou our guardian, thou our guide;  
o'er every thought and step preside.

The light of truth to us display,  
and make us know and choose thy way;  
plant holy fear in every heart,  
that we from God may ne'er depart.

Lead us to Christ, the living Way,  
nor let us from his pastures stray;  
lead us to holiness, the road  
that we must take to dwell with God.

Lead us to heaven, that we may share  
fullness of joy for ever there;  
lead us to God, our final rest,  
to be with him for ever blest.

*Simon Browne (1680-1732)*

## THE PRESENTATION

*The parents/guardians or other sponsors stand with the candidates in their pews. The Bishop asks the candidates:*

Have you been baptized 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.**

*The Bishop addresses the whole congregation*

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord adds to our number those whom he calls.

People of God, will you continue to welcome these candidates and uphold them in their life in Christ?

**With the help of God, we will.**

*Silence follows for prayer*

### The Collect of Confirmation

Almighty and eternal God,  
who, for the firmer foundation of our faith,  
allowed your holy apostle Thomas to doubt the resurrection of your Son  
till word and sight convinced him:  
grant to us, who have not seen, that we also may believe  
and so confess Christ as our Lord and our God;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

### First Reading

Ephesians 2.19-end

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In

him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

## **Gospel Reading**

### **John 20.24-29**

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

## **The Sermon**

### **HYMN 611**

Christ be beside me,  
Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me,  
    King of my heart.  
Christ be within me,  
Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me,  
    never to part.

Christ on my right hand,  
Christ on my left hand,  
    Christ all around me,  
    shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping,  
Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising,  
    light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts  
thinking about me,  
Christ be on all tongues  
telling of me.  
Christ be the vision  
in eyes that see me,  
in ears that hear me,  
Christ ever be.

*James Quinn* (b. 1919)  
Adapted from The Breastplate of St Patrick

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

### THE DECISION

*The candidates step out into the aisle adjacent to the pew where they have been seated and the Bishop puts these questions to them*

In baptism, God calls us from darkness to his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all proud rebellion against God?

**I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

**I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life?

**I come to Christ.**

## THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

*The Bishop asks each candidate*

Do you, N, believe and accept the Christian faith into which you are baptized?  
**I do.**

*The Bishop addresses the candidates and the congregation*

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 God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in God 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.**

*The Candidates remain standing in the aisle adjacent to the pew in which they have been seated.*

*The congregation kneels.*

## THE CONFIRMATION

*The Bishop says*

Our help is in the name of the Lord  
**who made heaven and earth.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord  
**now, and for ever. Amen.**

*Silence*

*The Bishop extends his hands towards those to be confirmed and says*

Almighty and everliving God, whose Son Jesus Christ was crucified and rose again to break the power of sin and death: We give you thanks and praise for the gift of your Holy Spirit by whom your servants have been born again and made your children. Grant that in the power of the same Holy Spirit they may continue to grow in the knowledge and likeness of Christ; increase in them your gracious gifts, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and inward strength, the spirit of knowledge and godly living; and fill them, O Lord, with the spirit of reverence for you.

*One by one each candidate kneels before the Bishop who addresses each candidate by name*

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

*The Bishop then lays his hand on the head of each, saying*

Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit.

*The congregation responds: Amen.*

*Using the Oil of Chrism the Bishop signs each with the sign of the cross saying*

Receive the seal of the Spirit.

*Each candidate returns to his or her place in the aisle. When all candidates have been confirmed all say:*

**Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace,  
that they may continue yours forever,  
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more  
until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.**

*The Bishop prays*

Heavenly Father, we pray for your servants upon whom we have now laid our hands, after the example of the apostles, to assure them by this sign of your favour towards them. May your fatherly hand ever be over them. Let your Holy Spirit ever be with them. Lead them to know and obey your word, and keep them in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*The congregation responds:* **Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*All kneel for the prayers*

As a royal priesthood, let us pray to the Father  
through Christ who ever lives to intercede for us.  
Reveal your kingdom among the nations;  
may peace abound and justice flourish. *Especially for ...*  
Your name be hallowed.  
**Your kingdom come.**

Send down upon us the gift of the Spirit  
and renew your Church with power from on high.  
Especially this Diocese, Paul our Bishop,  
and all who live and work in this Parish  
Your name be hallowed.  
**Your kingdom come.**

Deliver the oppressed, strengthen the weak,  
heal and restore your creation.  
*Especially for ...*  
Your name be hallowed.  
**Your kingdom come.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Church on earth,  
we join our prayers with all the saints in glory.  
Your name be hallowed.  
**Your kingdom come.**

## The Lord's Prayer

### THE SENDING OUT

*During the singing of the next hymn a collection will be taken for the Bishop's **Continuing Ministerial Education Fund** which pays for the training and inservice training of people for lay ministry, including Readers, and ordained ministry. You are asked to give as generously as your circumstances allow, please.*

*All stand to sing*

#### HYMN 476

Ye watchers, and ye holy ones,  
bright seraphs, cherubim and thrones,  
raise the glad strain, alleluia!  
Cry out, dominions, principedoms, powers,  
virtues, archangels, angels' choirs,  
*alleluia!*

O higher than the cherubim,  
more glorious than the seraphim,  
lead their praises, alleluia!  
Thou bearer of the eternal Word,  
most gracious, magnify the Lord,  
*alleluia!*

Respond, ye souls in endless rest,  
ye patriarchs and prophets blessed,  
alleluia, alleluia!  
Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong,  
all saints triumphant, raise the song  
*alleluia!*

O friends, in gladness let us sing,  
supernal anthems echoing,  
alleluia! Alleluia!  
To God the Father, God the Son,  
and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
*alleluia!*

*Athelstan Riley (1858-1945)*

## The Commission

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

**With the help of God, I 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, I 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.

**Amen.**

## The Blessing

*The Bishop blesses the people*

The God of all grace,  
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,  
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*All are sent out with these words*

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*After the dismissal everyone in the congregation is asked to remain in their pews.*

*After the dismissal, the newly confirmed and their immediate families will follow the Bishop and clergy of the parish outside where a group photograph will be taken.*

*The Bishop will also stand briefly with each of the newly confirmed for one photograph.*

*Please continue to remain in your pew until the churchwardens or sidespersons invite you to leave.*

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