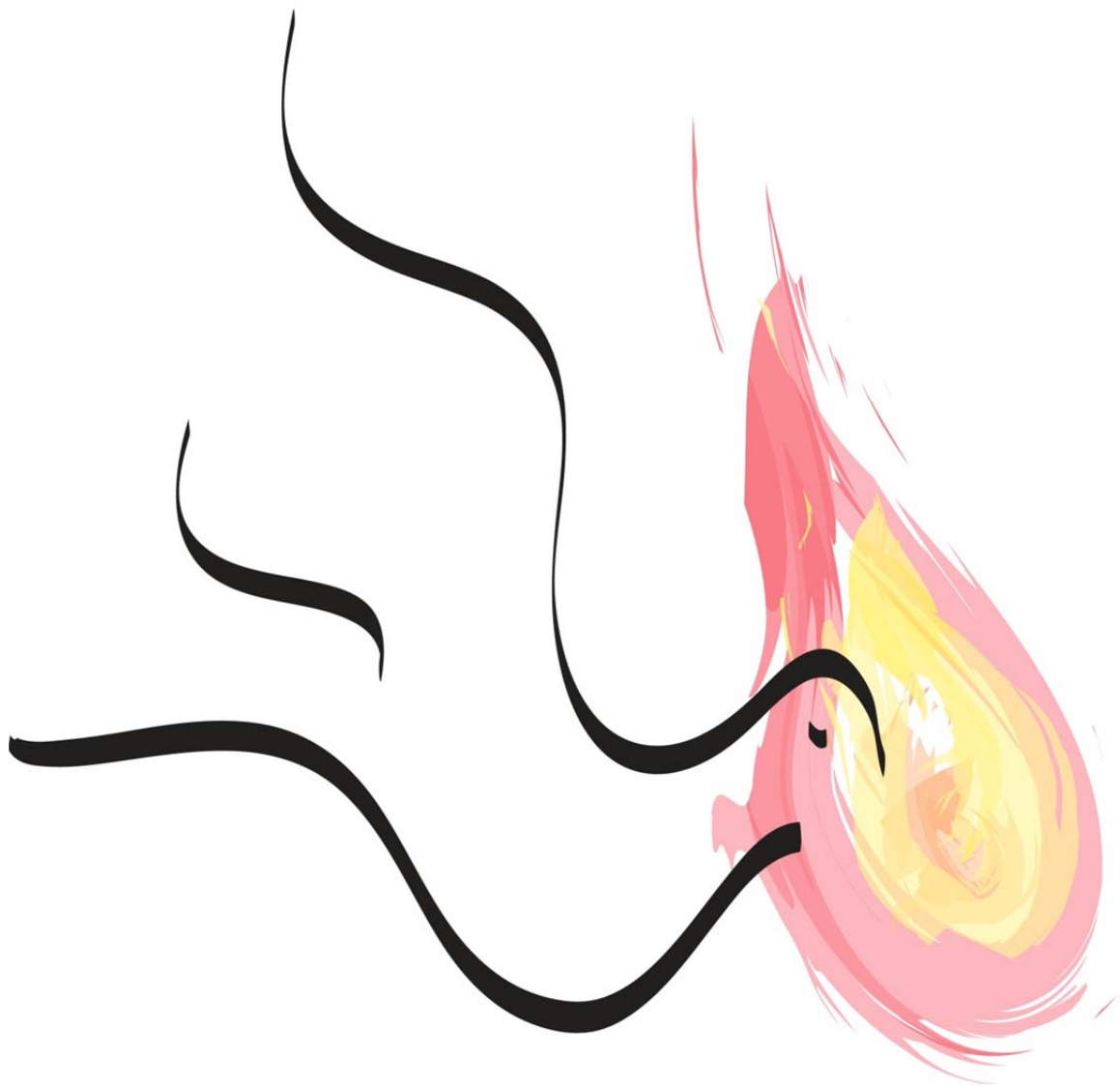


# Diocese of Paisley

Confirmation 2011-12



Guidelines for the Mass of Enrolment  
and the Mass of Confirmation

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# Celebrating Confirmation - Principles

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1. Baptised children who have made First Reconciliation/Confession and First Holy Communion will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the P7 stage (age 11-12), thus concluding Christian initiation prior to moving into secondary education.
2. Confirmation completes Baptism, unites us more firmly to Christ, deepens the bond of communion with the Church, confers the special strength of the Holy Spirit for the witness of Christian life, and imprints a spiritual seal or indelible character on the soul such that, like baptism, this Sacrament is received only once. Catechesis in preparation for Confirmation will present this mystery of faith in a way appropriate to the age and stage of development of the candidates for this sacrament.
3. So that their participation in the celebration of Confirmation will be all the fuller, the candidates will be made familiar with the Rite of Confirmation, the core symbolism of the laying-on of hands and anointing with the oil of chrism together with the accompanying prayers.
4. In the Rite of Confirmation, the bishop implores God to send the Holy Spirit with his gifts on the candidates who are to be confirmed: wisdom and understanding; right judgment and courage; knowledge and reverence; wonder and awe. Catechesis will focus appropriately on the gifts of the Holy Spirit as grace of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
5. The fruits of the Holy Spirit are listed in Sacred Scripture as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. Candidates for Confirmation are to be led to understand that the Holy Spirit comes in Confirmation to make them more like Jesus Christ and to help them, as children of God, give witness to the Lord.

6. It is customary for children to choose a saint's name for Confirmation as a sign of the new birth and identity they receive in Christ through the Sacraments of Initiation. This custom is to be encouraged since the saints are those, who, having received the gifts of the Holy Spirit, have shown the fruits of the Spirit in the witness of a good and holy life. It is hoped that the saints chosen by the children will be invoked regularly as part of a "Litany of the Saints" in class prayer times.
7. In infant baptism, parents and godparents professed the faith of the Church in the child's name. In Confirmation, each candidate is invited to profess the Church's faith in their own name. It is therefore fitting that preparation for Confirmation will include a direct catechesis on the articles of the Creed, in a way which is suitable to the candidate's age and stage of development.
8. Confirmation will normally be celebrated by the Bishop at Mass in the Cathedral Church. This demonstrates clearly that the effect of the Sacrament of Confirmation is to unite those who receive it more closely to the Church, to her apostolic origins, and to her mission of bearing witness to Christ.
9. At the Mass of Confirmation, it is very fitting to use the Rite of Sprinkling in place of the Penitential Rite in order to express the meaning of Confirmation as the completion of Baptism.
10. Candidates will choose a Sponsor for Confirmation. The Sponsor, who represents the whole Church in the faith formation of the candidate, must be a practising Catholic in full communion with the Church.
11. The immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation should include the Sacrament of Reconciliation and a time of retreat or recollection.

12. Whereas parents asked for baptism for their child and later petitioned the parish priest on their child's behalf for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist, the candidates themselves will petition their parish priest for Confirmation, a petition which is to be counter-signed by a parent or responsible adult. The parish priest will convey these petitions to the bishop.
13. The Catholic Primary School has the leading role in the formal catechesis and preparation of the candidates for Confirmation. It is most appropriate that teachers and other catechists participate actively in the Mass of Confirmation.
14. Although the Sacrament of Confirmation will bring the Christian initiation of baptised children to a conclusion, the fully-initiated young Catholics still require support and good example and further catechesis from parents, from priests, from the Catholic secondary school and from the whole community.
15. It is especially to be borne in mind that the centre of the Sacraments of Initiation is the Eucharist. One of the marks and obligations of the fully-initiated Catholic is full, active and conscious participation at Sunday Mass. Young Catholics must fulfil the serious obligation to participate at Sunday Mass so that the Eucharist will be at the centre of a full Christian life.
16. It has been the tradition in our Diocese for donations to be made to the Bishop's Charity Fund by those who are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is normal during their time of preparation that they take part in some fund-raising activities for this purpose. A pupil from each school should present the donation for this fund on behalf of the newly confirmed during the Presentation of the Gifts at the Confirmation Mass. Cheques for the Bishop's Charity should be made payable to "Diocese of Paisley".

# Exemplar Letter for the Rite of Enrolment

(A letter is to be written by each candidate to be presented at the Mass of Enrolment and thereafter forwarded to the Bishop)

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Right Rev. Philip Tartaglia  
Bishop of Paisley  
Diocesan Offices  
Cathedral Precincts  
Incle Street  
Paisley  
PA1 1HR

Date

Dear Bishop Philip,

“I believe in the Holy Spirit”

As a parishioner of \_\_\_\_\_ and a Primary 7 pupil in -  
\_\_\_\_\_ Primary School, I am now asking to receive the  
Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Mirin’s Cathedral on \_\_\_\_\_.

In receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation with faith, I will be “sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit”. I will be made more like Jesus and come closer to him. I will be made more fully a member of his Church. And I will be given a special strength to give witness to Jesus in my life.

I have chosen the name of \_\_\_\_\_ for my Confirmation name. I ask  
St. \_\_\_\_\_ to pray for me and to inspire me to be more like Jesus  
in my daily life. I have chosen the name of St \_\_\_\_\_  
because \_\_\_\_\_

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Yours sincerely

*(signed by pupil)*

*(counter-signed by parent/guardian)*

# Rite of Enrolment (November/Advent)

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*(After the Gospel and Homily and Creed)*

## PARENTS AND SPONSORS ARE INVITED TO STAND

**Priest:** My brothers and sisters, as we do in every celebration of Mass on the Lord's Day, we have just professed our faith by reciting the Creed. By saying "I believe" at the beginning of the articles of the Creed we claim these words as our own. The faith of the Church handed down from the time of the apostles is my faith; it is our faith, which we are proud to profess.

Dear parents in years past you brought your children to the Church to be baptised; that they might receive the gift of new life from God, who is love. On that joyful day you accepted the responsibility of bringing your children up in the practice of the faith, so that the divine gift which God gave them would grow always stronger in their hearts.

Your fidelity to this commitment has brought us to this day when your children, supported by you, seek to be enrolled for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Will you continue to support them by word and example that, in this year, their faith may continue to grow as they prepare to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

**Parents:** We will

**Sponsors:** My dear brothers and sisters, chosen to be Sponsors for the sacrament of Confirmation, you have accepted a very special role. You have agreed to accompany the ones to be Confirmed, but not only for the day of their Confirmation. By your example in the practice of faith, by your witness of good Christian living, and by your daily prayers for them, you will support these children as they prepare to receive this Sacrament. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

**Sponsors:** We do.

*The priest addresses the following words to the assembly*

**Priest:** And to this parish community of \_\_\_\_\_

Are you prepared to continue to support, by your prayer, these children, their parents and sponsors as they prepare for the sealing of their baptism and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation?

**All:** We are

**THE CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO STAND**

Priest: Boys & Girls, I know that with your letter to the Bishop you are also telling him of the Saint whose name you are taking at your Confirmation. The Saints show us how to be holy and how to please God. Close to God in heaven, they will intercede for us, whenever we ask them to.

In these coming months, I ask you to learn more about your chosen Saints and how they followed Jesus. Every day ask them to pray for you and help you to prepare well to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

As they did, may you come to know the breadth and height and depth of God's love for you. Filled with the Holy Spirit may you become an ambassador of Jesus: full of joy telling others of the Good News that he has given to us.

As you present your petition, I am going to give you a copy of the Baptismal Promises. The Baptismal Promises profess belief in the most central mysteries of our faith. At your baptism, your parents and sponsors made the profession of faith in your name. At your Confirmation, you will solemnly declare yourself that you believe in the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and that you give your personal assent to the truths that God has revealed to us. Throughout your life, may God help you to grow more and more in this faith, which is the faith of the Catholic Church.

Boys and Girls, candidates, I invite you now to come forward to present your request to be given to Bishop Philip; seeking that he will confer this Sacrament upon you in St. Mirin's Cathedral on \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

**HAVING RECEIVED THE PETITIONS AND GIVEN THE BAPTISMAL PROMISES, IN CONCLUSION, THE PRIEST SAYS THE FOLLOWING PRAYER.**

Priest: Father, we thank you for the gift of faith. We ask that these children will come to know ever more the joy and hope that comes from the Gospel. In the fullness of time, filled with the Holy Spirit, may they be fully active members of the Church, alive in Jesus Christ. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

*(The Mass continues with the Prayers of the Faithful)*



# Schedule of Masses for Confirmation 2012

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The dates for the celebrations of Confirmation during 2012 are listed below along with the Primary Schools associated with each Mass. If a pupil has been unable to attend Confirmation at the appointed time, it may be possible to arrange for them to join another group. In such circumstances the Head Teacher (or delegate) should contact the Diocesan Office Secretary, Mrs. SarahJane Colhoun (0141 847 6130) to make such a request.

## **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

St. Joseph's, Busby; Our Lady of the Missions, Thornliebank

## **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

St. John's Barrhead; St. Mark's Barrhead, St Thomas Neilston; St. Charles Paisley

## **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012**

St Cadoc's, Newton Mearns ; St. Ninian's, Gourrock

## **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012**

St. John Ogilvie, Paisley; St Catherine's, Paisley ; St. Fergus', Paisley; St. James', Paisley; St. Mary's Paisley; St. Paul's, Paisley.

## **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

St. Peter's, Paisley; St. Margaret's, Johnstone; , St. Anthony's, Johnstone ; St. David's, Johnstone; St. Fillan's, Houston

## **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

St. Anne's, Erskine; , Our Lady of Peace , Linwood; St. John Bosco, Erskine,, St. James', Renfrew

## **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012**

St. Mary's, Greenock ; St. Andrew's, Greenock; St. Joseph's , Greenock; St. Patrick's, Greenock

## **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

All Saints, Greenock; St. Francis, Port Glasgow; St. Michael's,Port Glasgow; St. John's Port Glasgow

# Confirmation Day - Preparation

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Parishes and Schools should discuss locally, as appropriate, methods and means of transportation to the Cathedral.

The candidates with their sponsors should be in the Cathedral Halls before 6.30pm. Please note that toileting facilities available in the Cathedral itself are minimal compared with the Cathedral Halls.

Diocesan staff will be in the hall to help with the last-minute preparations. However, it would be appreciated if teachers would be appointed by each school to:

- welcome the children and sponsors. Hopefully this will help to take away any nervousness
- take a note of their attendance. This is necessary to ensure the Confirmation is registered. The Confirmations will be registered in the parish within which the school is situated. The details of those Confirmed on the night should be given to the Parish Priest soon after the celebration.
- check their name badges. These should be prepared in advance and should have the Confirmation Name first and then their Christian Name written or printed on them. Spare badges should be available on the evening.
- help with the process of moving from the Cathedral Hall to the appointed seats in the Cathedral before Mass. All should be assembled in their places within the Cathedral at least 10 minutes before Mass begins.
- be on hand in the Cathedral before Mass to help seat any latecomers.

Candidates will sit together in the rows reserved for them on one side of the front section of the Cathedral. Sponsors will be assigned corresponding places in the front section of the other side of the Cathedral. When the Candidates are invited forward to be confirmed, each will be joined by his or her sponsor.

The Blessed Sacrament will not be present in the main sanctuary tabernacle but will be in the tabernacle at the Sacred Heart altar. The Blessed Sacrament should be revered by everyone before they take their seat (by genuflecting

towards the sacred Heart altar, [left-hand altar]). The altar should also be revered by a simple head bow before entering the row.

Texts of all the responses will be included in the Mass Booklet. These texts will be from the new English translation of the Roman Missal 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Some texts of Mass are in the appendix of this document.

# MASS OF CONFIRMATION

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## **Entrance Procession**

The Bishop, clergy and servers will form the entrance procession, during which **Here I am Lord (I, the Lord of Sea and Sky)**, is sung. After the Bishop reverences the altar, he will use incense to further reverence the altar which represents Christ.

## **Asperges**

The Bishop will bless and sprinkle the congregation with water, as a reminder of Baptism. This takes the place of the penitential preparation.

The **Mallaig Sprinkling Song** will accompany the sprinkling with blessed water.

## **The Gloria**

The Gloria is said or sung on any days prescribed by liturgical law (Solemnities or Feasts<sup>1</sup>).

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<sup>1</sup> In 2012 this is expected only to be on the Feast of Sts Philip & James (3<sup>rd</sup> May)

# The Liturgy of the Word

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**Parishes and Schools should consult and appoint beforehand readers for the readings and intercessions.**

## **Scripture Readings**

Unless celebrated on a Solemnity or feast mentioned below<sup>2</sup>the readings for the Mass are the following and can be found on the indicated pages of The Lectionary for Mass, volume III.

**First Reading: Acts 2:1-6.14.22-23.32-33. Reading No 2 on p.93.**

**Psalm: Send forth your Spirit, O Lord**

**Second Reading: Romans 8:14-17. Reading 2 on p.97.**

**Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia**

**Gospel: John 14:23-26. Reading 10 on p.107.**

The Word of God is always to be proclaimed from the Lectionary itself and not from a leaflet.

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<sup>2</sup> In 2012 this is expected only to be on the Feast of Sts Philip & James (3rd May)

# The Liturgy of Confirmation

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## **The Presentation of the Candidates**

After the Gospel, everyone is seated. The Parish Priest or School Chaplain of each parish presents the candidates in the following manner:

**Bishop Philip, I present to you the candidates for the sacrament of Confirmation from [Name of Parish], [Town]. They have been helped in their preparation by the teachers of [Name of School(s)].**

At this point the candidates from that parish stand. After all the candidates have been presented the bishop will invite them to be seated.

## **Homily**

The bishop then gives a Homily in which he leads the candidates, their sponsors and parents, and the whole assembly to a deeper understanding of the mystery of confirmation.

## **Baptismal Promises**

All the candidates are then invited to stand as they renew their Baptismal Promises. The bishop questions them:

**Bishop:** Do you reject Satan, and all his works and all his empty promises?

**Candidate: I do**

**Bishop:** Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

**Candidate: I do**

**Bishop:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

**Candidates: I do**

Bishop: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who came upon the apostles at Pentecost and today is given to you sacramentally in Confirmation?

**Candidates: I do**

Bishop: Do you believe in the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

**Candidates: I do**

*The Bishop confirms their profession of faith by proclaiming the faith of the Church*

Bishop: This is our faith; this is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**All: Amen**

The sacrament of Confirmation is conferred through the anointing with Chrism on the forehead, which is done by the laying on of the hands, and through the words “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit”.

### **Laying on of Hands**

The bishop stands and invites all to pray to the Father, asking that the Holy Spirit be poured on these candidates and that they may be made more like the Lord Jesus. This is a symbolic rite recalling the scriptural gesture by which the Spirit was given.

## **Anointing with Chrism**

As directed by the MCs, the candidates with their sponsors come forward to the bishop for Confirmation. The sponsor should be slightly behind and with their right hand on the right shoulder of the candidate.

### *The Anointing*

The bishop will anoint the candidates saying:

**Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

The candidate responds: **Amen**

Bishop: **Peace be with you**

Candidate: **And with your spirit.**

## **Prayers of the Faithful**

The appointed reader should lead the intercessions. These are contained in appendix 1.



# The Liturgy of the Eucharist

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## Preparation of the Gifts

The Rite of Confirmation mentions that some of the newly confirmed may join those who bring the gifts to the altar. One boy and one girl from each school should bring forward the gifts. They will be directed by the MCs.

The gifts to be included in the procession are

- Wine
- Bread
- Gifts for the poor<sup>3</sup>

The MCs will ensure that there are sufficient vessels available.

During the procession **Come, Holy Ghost, Creator come** will be sung.

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The “Mass Parts” (**Holy, Holy; Mystery of Faith; Lamb of God; Doxology**) will be from the Mass for Christ the Savior by Dan Schutte. Mgr. Carlin will make available resources for this in advance.

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<sup>3</sup> It has been the tradition in our Diocese for donations to be made to the *Bishop’s Charity Fund* by those who are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is normal during their time of preparation that they take part in some fund-raising activities for this purpose. A pupil from each school should present the donation for this fund on behalf of the newly confirmed during the Presentation of the Gifts at the Confirmation Mass. Cheques for the Bishop’s Charity should be made payable to “Diocese of Paisley”.

## **Communion Rite**

Hymns during Communion Procession may include:

**Soul of my Saviour**

**This is my body**

**Do not be afraid**

**Lord, you have come to the seashore**

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord**

## **Thanks**

During his words of thanks at the end of the Mass, Bishop Philip will acknowledge the charitable efforts made by the pupils and their subsequent donations to his Charity Fund.

## **Blessing and Dismissal**

The Bishop will give the solemn blessing.

## **Recessional Hymn**

**City of God**

# Appendix 1 – Prayer of the Faithful

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## Sample Intercessions

For these sons and daughters of God who have today received the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit, that they may use those gifts to the glory of God. Lord, hear us.

For their parents and sponsors, that by word and example they may always encourage them to follow the way of Jesus Christ. Lord, hear us

For ourselves and the whole Church, that filled with the power first given by the Spirit at Pentecost, we may boldly proclaim to all people the Good News of salvation. Lord, hear us

For all men and women of every race and nation, that through the witness of believers, they may come to know the one true God. Lord, hear us.

## Appendix 2 – Texts of Mass

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### **Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,

we bless you,

we adore you,

we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

**After the Gifts have been presented:**

Bishop: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

The people rise and reply: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

*Preface*

Extending his hands, the Bishop says: The Lord be with you.

The people reply: **And with your spirit.**

Bishop: Lift up your hearts.

The people: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Bishop: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

The people: **It is right and just.**

**Sanctus**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

### **The Mystery of Faith**

Bishop: The mystery of faith.

And the people continue, acclaiming:

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

Or:

**When we eat this Bread  
and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

Or:

**Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

### **The presentation of the Sacred Species**

Bishop: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

And together with the people he adds once:

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**