

Please remember in your prayers Tanvi who will be baptised & confirmed today & Bruno who will be confirmed.

Understandings of confirmation

The Western Church, and to this day the Church of England, uses the term 'confirmation' in different and often overlapping senses. It has been applied to different parts of the process of incorporation into Christ:

To establish or secure.

This is the earliest and non-technical sense. It is used of an action in which the Church accepts and acts on baptism. It was applied to the first receiving of communion as well as to episcopal anointing and hand-laying.

A post-baptismal episcopal rite.

In the ninth century this technical sense attached itself to the exclusively Western practice of a post-baptismal episcopal rite. There has been a continuing debate in the West as to whether this 'confirmation' consists of the general prayer for the sevenfold gift of the Spirit said over all the candidates or of the specific act of praying for each candidate that follows the general prayer.

To strengthen.

This understanding of the episcopal rite became widespread in the thirteenth century, having been applied earlier to an adult's need of strength to witness and to resist temptation, and then transferred to children as they approach adulthood.

To approve or recognize.

In Cranmer's rites the bishop's action is seen as signifying the Church's recognition of the personal faith nurtured in the catechetical process.

To ratify.

The meaning of individual or personal ratification emerges in the preface added to the confirmation service in *The Book of Common Prayer* (1662).

Readings next Sunday, 4th Before Lent, Year C

Isa 6:1-8(9-13), 1 Cor 15:1-11, Lk 5: 1-11

Looking ahead

Weds 6 Feb 6.30pm Patronal Feast Day, Evensong

St Vedast-alias-Foster
Peace and contemplation at the heart of the City
vedast.org.uk

 St Vedast-Alias-Foster  @stvedast  @stvedastaliasfoster

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3rd February, Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) With Holy Baptism & Confirmation

Celebrant: Bishop Stephen Platten

Setting Parish Mass - Allcoat

Malachi 3.1–5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight - indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

A reading from *The Revelations of Mechtild of Magdeburg*
also known as
The Flowing Light of the Godhead

GOD

You are hunting desperately for your love.
What do you bring me, O my Queen?

Soul

Lord, I bring you my treasure
It is greater than the mountains
Wider than the world
Deeper than the ocean
Higher than the clouds
More glorious than the sun
More numerous than the stars
And it outweighs the entire earth!

GOD

O image of my Godhead
Ennobled by my own humanity
Adorned by my Holy Spirit
What is your treasure Called?

Soul

Lord, it is called my heart's desire
I have withdrawn it from the world
Denied it to myself or any creature
Now I can bear it no longer
Where, O Lord, shall I lay it?

God

Your heart's desire shall you lay nowhere
But in my own Sacred Heart
And on my human breast.
There alone will you find comfort
And be embraced by my Spirit.

Luke 2.22 – 40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

For your prayers:

Those who are ill: Carlo Fazzi, Alison Hird ,Meredith Chesterman

Those who have died recently: Jim Bell, Betty Sullivan

Anthem Nunc Dimittis- Burgeon