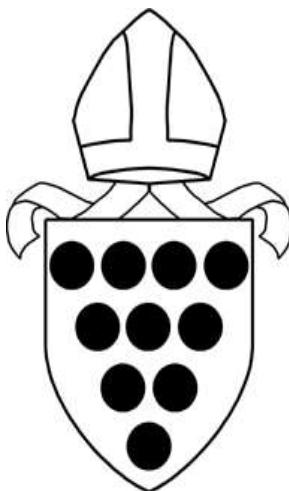


# **The Diocese of Worcester**



## **A Celebration of Confirmation at the Eucharist**

**Pershore Abbey  
15 February 2026 at 10:30  
SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**

Alison Branchett, Jonathan Branchett, Abraham Peter,  
Henry Prior, Jessica Wyburn



Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour  
first-begotten from the dead,  
thou alone, our strong defender,  
liftest up thy people's head.  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Jesu, true and living bread.

Here our humblest homage pay we,  
here in loving reverence bow;  
here for faith's discernment pray we,  
lest we fail to know thee now.  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
thou art here, we ask not how.

Though the lowliest form doth veil thee  
as of old in Bethlehem,  
here as there thine angels hail thee,  
branch and flower of Jesse's stem.  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
we in worship join with them.

Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished  
once for all when thou wast slain,  
in its fullness undiminished  
shall for evermore remain,  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
cleansing souls from every stain.

Life-imparting heavenly manna,  
stricken rock with streaming side,  
heaven and earth with loud hosanna  
worship thee, the Lamb who died,  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
risen, ascended, glorified!

## **Preparation**

### **The Greeting**

*The Bishop greets the people*

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All** **Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

There is one body and one spirit.

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

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

**All** **one God and Father of all.**

Peace be with you

**All** **and also with you.**

*The Bishop introduces the service.*

### **The Collect**

*The Bishop introduces a period of silent prayer*

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty  
before he suffered death upon the cross:  
give us grace to perceive his glory,  
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him  
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All** **Amen.**

## ***The Liturgy of the Word***

### **The First Reading 2 Peter 1:16-21**

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

*At the end of the reading, the reader may say*

For the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**  
(Hereford)

O thou who camest from above,  
the pure celestial fire to impart,  
    kindle a flame of sacred love  
on the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn  
    with inextinguishable blaze,  
and trembling to its source return  
in humble prayer, and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire  
to work, and speak, and think for thee;  
    still let me guard the holy fire,  
and still stir up thy gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will,  
my acts of faith and love repeat,  
till death thy endless mercies seal,  
and make my sacrifice complete.

*[Charles Wesley, 1707-1788]*

## **Gospel Reading Matthew 17:1-9**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud

overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!’ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Get up and do not be afraid.’ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, ‘Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

*A Time of Silence may be kept after the Sermon.*

## ***The Liturgy of Initiation***

### **Presentation of the Candidates**

*The candidates are presented to the Bishop by their sponsors*

Bishop, I present N for confirmation.

*The Bishop asks the candidates for confirmation*

Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

**I have.**

*The Bishop asks all the candidates*

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

**I am.**

*Candidates may offer a short Testimony*

*The Bishop addresses the whole congregation*

Faith is the gift of God to his people.  
In baptism the Lord is adding to our number  
those whom he is calling.  
People of God, will you welcome these *candidates* and uphold  
them in *their* life in Christ?

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

## **The Decision**

*The Paschal (Easter) Candle is lit. The Bishop addresses all the candidates*

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into 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 rebellion against God?

**All I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**All I renounce them.**

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

**All I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**All I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**All I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

**All I come to Christ.**

May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ,  
give you also strength to continue in the Way.

All **Amen.**

## **Prayer over the Water**

*The ministers and candidates for confirmation gather around the baptismal bowl.*

*The Bishop leads the following prayer of thanksgiving for baptism*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, sovereign God of all,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
You are our light and salvation.  
From the deep waters of death  
you have raised your Son to life in triumph.  
Grant that all who have been born anew  
by water and the Spirit  
may daily be renewed in your image,  
walk by the light of faith,  
and serve you in newness of life;  
through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
we lift our voices of praise.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

## **Profession of Faith**

*The bishop addresses 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?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**All 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,**

**he 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?

**All 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 for confirmation come forward to the bowl and the Bishop invites them to make a sign of the cross on their forehead.*

*The Bishop says*

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptized into your name.

Keep us faithful to 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.

**All Amen.**

## Confirmation

*The Bishop stands before those who are to be confirmed, and says*

Our help is in the name of the Lord

**All who has made heaven and earth.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord

**All now and for ever. Amen.**

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

Almighty and ever-living God,  
you have given these your servants new birth  
in baptism by water and the Spirit,  
and have forgiven them all their sins.

Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;  
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;  
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;  
and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.

**All Amen.**

*Each candidate looks into the eyes of the Bishop who addresses them by name, and anoints them, saying*

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

*The candidate bows their head as the Bishop lays his hand on the head of each, saying*

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

*The Bishop invites the congregation to pray for all those on whom hands have been laid*

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

*The Bishop may invite the congregation to greet the newly confirmed with applause.*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*The Bishop introduces the intercessions with the words*

As a royal priesthood, let us pray to the Father through Christ who ever lives to intercede for us.

*A member of the Congregation leads the prayers*

Reveal your kingdom among the nations;  
may peace abound and justice flourish.  
In particular, we pray for...  
Your name be hallowed.

*All* **Your kingdom come.**

Send down upon us the gift of the Spirit  
and renew your Church with power from on high.  
In particular, we pray for...  
Your name be hallowed.

*All* **Your kingdom come.**

Deliver the oppressed, strengthen the weak,  
heal and restore your creation.  
In particular, we pray for...  
Your name be hallowed.

*All* **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.

**All Your kingdom come.**

Merciful Father  
**All accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.**  
**Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*The Bishop introduces the Peace.*

God has made us one in Christ.  
He has set his seal upon us  
and, as a pledge of what is to come,  
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**All and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace. The congregation may greet the newly baptized and confirmed.*

## **The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

### **Preparation of the Table and Taking of the Bread and Wine**

**Hymn**  
(Kingsfold)

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
thy head upon my breast':  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
weary and worn and sad;  
I found in him a resting-place,  
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one;  
stoop down and drink and live':  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
and all thy day be bright':  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk  
till travelling days are done.

*[George Hugh Bourne, 1840-1925]*

*The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.*

*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.  
The Bishop takes the bread and wine.*

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness  
to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks  
because by water and the Holy Spirit  
you have made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord,  
you raise us to new life in him  
and renew us in the image of your glory.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and *singing*:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins  
of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection  
and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice  
of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the  
saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

*Silence may be kept.*

## The Lord's Prayer

In our Saviour's presence, and as he taught, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

*The Agnus Dei is sung*

**All Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have  
mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have  
mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us  
peace.**

## **Giving of Communion**

*The Bishop says the invitation to communion*

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*The Bishop and people receive communion.*

*During the distribution the choir will sing **Set me as a seal** (Eleanor Daley)*

## **Hymn**

Holy Spirit, living breath of God,  
breathe new life into my willing soul.  
Bring the presence of the risen Lord  
to renew my heart and make me whole.  
Cause your word to come alive in me;  
give me faith for what I cannot see,  
give me passion for your purity;  
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within,  
May your joy be seen in all I do.  
Love enough to cover every sin  
In each thought and deed and attitude:  
Kindness to the greatest and the least,  
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.  
turn my strivings into works of grace;  
breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Cont'd

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,  
Giving life to all that God has made,  
show your power once again on earth,  
Cause your church to hunger for your ways.  
May the fragrance of our prayers arise;  
lead us on the road of sacrifice,  
that in unity the face of Christ  
may be clear for all the world to see.

*[David J. Evans, b. 1957]*

## Prayer after Communion

*Silence is kept.*

Holy God,  
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:  
may we who are partakers at his table  
reflect his life in word and deed,  
that all the world may know his power to change and save.  
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**All Father of all,**  
**we give you thanks and praise,**  
**that when we were still far off**  
**you met us in your Son and brought us home.**  
**Dying and living, he declared your love,**  
**gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.**  
**May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;**  
**we who drink his cup bring life to others;**  
**we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.**  
**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,**  
**so we and all your children shall be free,**  
**and the whole earth live to praise your name;**  
**through Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen.**

*The candidates receive a candle during the hymn.*

**Hymn**  
(Wolvercote)

O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou for ever near me,  
my Master and my friend:  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me:  
the world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me,  
around me and within;  
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,  
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised  
to all who follow thee,  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end:  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my friend.

Cont'd

O let me see thy foot-marks,  
and in them plant mine own;  
    my hope to follow duly  
    is in thy strength alone:  
O guide me, call me, draw me,  
    uphold me to the end;  
and then in heaven receive me,  
    my Saviour and my friend.

*[John Ernest Bode, 1816-1874]*

## ***The Sending Out***

## ***The Blessing***

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
through the power of the Holy Spirit;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

## ***Giving of a Lighted Candle***

*The Bishop says*

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness  
and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ;  
walk in this light all the days of your life.

*All* **Shine as a light in the world  
to the glory of God the Father.**

## The Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.  
**All** **Thanks be to God.**

*The Bishop leads the newly confirmed through the church. The Choir and ministers follow.*

*Please stay for refreshments after the service.*



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

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DIOCESE OF  
WORCESTER

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