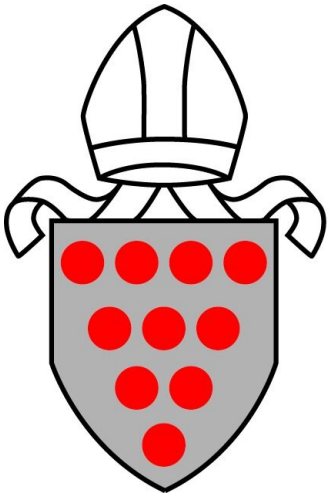
The Diocese of Worcester



A Celebration of Confirmation at the Eucharist

Pershore Abbey
01 November 2026 at 1030
All Saints' Day

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Nick Henry, Anita Jones, Richard Jones, Jenny Store

Hymn

For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesu, be for ever blest. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness, still their one true light. Alleluia. Alleluia.

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia. Alleluia.

But lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array:
the King of glory passes on his way. Alleluia. Alleluia.

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Ancient & Modern: 296
William Walsham How (1823–1867)

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 God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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 1 John 3:1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify them selves, just as he is pure.

For the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

O thou who camest from above,
the fire celestial 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.

Ancient & Modern: 258
Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Gospel Reading Matthew 5: 1-12

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

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteous ness, for they will be filled. 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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 hands 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

During the next hymn the collection will be taken. We have the facility to take contactless card payments at the back of the Abbey.

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.

Hymn

Bright the vision that delighted
once the sight of Judah's seer;
sweet the countless tongues united
to entrance the prophet's ear.

Round the Lord in glory seated
cherubim and seraphim
filled his temple, and repeated
each to each the alternate hymn:

'Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;
earth is with its fullness stored;
unto thee be glory given,
holy, holy, holy, Lord.'

Heaven is still with glory ringing,
earth takes up the angels' cry,
'Holy, holy, holy,' singing,
'Lord of hosts, the Lord most high.'

With his seraph train before him,
with his holy church below,
thus unite we to adore him,
bid we thus our anthem flow:

'Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;
earth is with its fullness stored;
unto thee be glory given,
holy, holy, holy, Lord.'

Ancient & Modern: 603
Richard Mant (1776–1848)
based on Isaiah 6.1-6

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, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, 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. Amen. Amen.**

Silence may be kept.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, 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 My soul there is country (CHH Parry)

Hymn

For all the saints who showed your love
in how they lived and where they moved,
for mindful women, caring men,
accept our gratitude again.

For all the saints who loved your name,
whose faith increased the Saviour's fame,
who sang your songs and shared your word,
accept our gratitude, good Lord.

For all the saints who named your will,
and saw your kingdom coming still
through selfless protest, prayer and praise,
accept the gratitude we raise.

Bless all whose will or name or love
reflects the grace of heaven above.
Though unacclaimed by earthly powers,
your life through theirs has hallowed ours.

Ancient & Modern: 297
John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)
Tune: O Waly Waly

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom; 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

Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
bright Seraphs, Cherubim and Thrones,
raise the glad strain, Alleluia.
Cry out, Dominions, Princedoms, Powers,
Virtues, Archangels, Angels' choirs,
Alleluia, alleluia, 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, alleluia, alleluia.

Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
ye Patriarchs and Prophets blest,
Alleluia, alleluia.
Ye holy Twelve, ye Martyrs strong,
all Saints triumphant, raise the song
Alleluia, alleluia, 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, alleluia, alleluia.

Ancient & Modern: 312
John Althelstan Riley (1858–1945)
Words and Music: From The English Hymnal, 1906,
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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 the ministers follow.

Please stay for refreshments after the service.

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