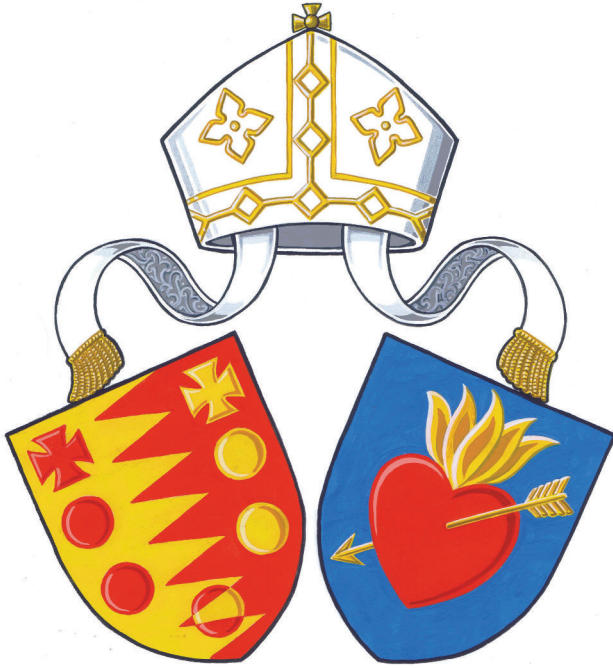


St. Augustine of Hippo
EDGBASTON

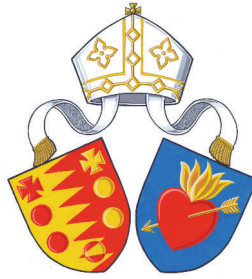


CONFIRMATION SERVICE

by

The Lord Bishop of Birmingham,
The Right Reverend David Urquhart

Candlemas MMXIV



The Parish Church of St Augustine of Hippo Edgbaston

The Candidates

Michelle Edeghere

James Fletcher

Derek Green

Dylan Greene

Chloë Hartland

Nathan Hawkins

Adam Kidd

Mohsen Mahmoudi

Laura Nicholls

Sharon Peedell-Pandya

Abigail Smith

Francesca Ward

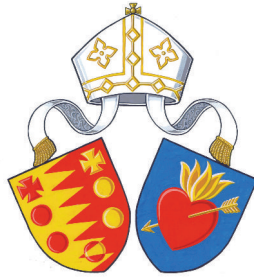
Welcome

Welcome to Saint Augustine's on this Candlemas 2014.

Confirmation marks the point in the Christian journey at which the candidates affirm for themselves the faith into which they have been baptized and their intention to live a life of committed discipleship. This affirmation is confirmed through prayer and the laying on of hands by the confirming bishop, who today is our own Bishop of Birmingham.

The Church also asks God to give the candidates power through the Holy Spirit to enable them to live in the way of Jesus.





*The Lord Bishop of Birmingham
The Right Reverend David Urquhart*

Preparation

HYMN 'Come Down, O Love Divine'

Come down, O love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till Love create a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

*Words: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434;
trans. Richard Frederick Littledale, Jr., 1867
Music: 'Down Ampney' by R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

*The bishop enters from the Narthex with the candidates.
The Altar is censed.*

INTROIT

I will sprinkle clean water upon you and ye shall be clean : from all your idols will I cleanse you.

A new heart will I give you : and a new spirit will I put within you.

THE GREETING

The bishop greets the people, using these words

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.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

All **Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ:
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand
of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art the Most High,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Music: John Merbecke (c.1510-1585)

THE COLLECT

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened heaven's gate and revealed yourself as Father
by the voice that called Jesus your beloved Son,
baptizing him, in the power of the Spirit:
reveal yourself to us now, to claim us as your children,
and so complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
in the waters of the new creation;
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.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

READING *1 Corinthians 2.7-12*

But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: ⁸ Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. ¹⁰ But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 27.1,4,7,8

- ¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation* whom then / shall I / fear :
the Lord is the strength of my life,* of whom then / shall I / be a- / fraid?
- ⁴ One thing have I desired of the Lord, which I / will re- / quire :
even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life*,
to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to / visit his / Temple.
- ⁷ Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with / great - / gladness
I will sing and speak / praises / unto the / Lord
- ⁸ Hearken unto my voice O Lord, when I / cry un-to / thee
have / mercy up - / on me · and / hear me.

ALLELUIA

Alleluia, alleluia.

Come Holy Ghost, and fill the hearts of thy faithful people : and kindle within them the fire of thy love.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL *Mark 1:4-11*

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

All **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.⁵ And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey; ⁷ And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. ⁸ I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.⁹ And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.¹⁰ And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:¹¹ And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

SERMON

The Liturgy of Initiation

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

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.

Testimony by the candidates may follow

The bishop addresses the whole congregation

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 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?

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.

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

The ministers and candidates for confirmation gather at the baptismal font.

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 bishop sprinkles the candidates

Then 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. **Amen.**

The bishop and the candidates gather at the place of confirmation.

We pray for the candidates as the choir sings

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire.
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.
Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love.

Enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight.
Anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace.
Keep far from foes, give peace at home:
where thou art guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but One,
that through the ages all along,
this may be our endless song:
Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Thomas Attwood (1765 – 1838)

CONFIRMATION

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

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

Blessed be the name of the Lord
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. **Amen.**

The bishop addresses each candidate by name

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

He then lays his hand on the head of each, saying

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

The bishop anoints the candidates with chrism

*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.

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 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

At the end of each prayer, these responses are used:

Lord, in thy mercy

Hear our prayer.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord

And let light perpetual shine upon them

And at the end:

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

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 with thy spirit.**

The deacon says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

OFFERTORY HYMN *‘Alleluia, sing to Jesus’*

Alleluia! sing to Jesus! His the sceptre, his the throne.
Alleluia! His the triumph, his the victory alone.
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood.
Jesus out of every nation hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us, faith believes, nor questions how;
Though the cloud from sight received him when the forty days were o’er
shall our hearts forget his promise, ‘I am with you evermore’?

Alleluia! bread of heaven, here on earth our food and stay!
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to thee from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, earth’s Redeemer, plead for me.
Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, thee the Lord of lords we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary, earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne.
Thou within the veil hast entered, robed in flesh, our great High Priest.
Thou on earth both Priest and Victim in the Eucharistic Feast.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898), 1867
Music: ‘Hyfrydol’ by Roland H. Prichard (1811-1887)

The Order for Celebration of Holy Communion continues with

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Bread and wine, and the people’s gifts are brought to the altar.
The Bishop incenses the gifts and the altar.

Thine, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is thine.

All **All things come of thee,
and of thine own have we given thee.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you
All **and with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.
All **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ thine only Son our Lord.

For he is the great high priest, who has loosed us from our sins and has made us to be a royal priesthood unto thee, our God and Father.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995) in the key of F

All glory be to thee Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death, until his coming again.

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee, and grant that by the power of thy Holy Spirit, we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood.

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, 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. Likewise after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks to thee, he gave it to them saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

All **O Saviour of the world,
who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us,
save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.**

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy humble servants, having in remembrance the precious death and passion of thy dear Son, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins and all other benefits of his passion.

And although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences; and to grant that all we, who are partakers of this holy communion, may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction;

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 unto thee, O Father almighty, world without end.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and 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.**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.**

Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995) in the key of F

The newly confirmed come and kneel at the altar

GIVING OF COMMUNION

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

**Lord, I am not worthy
that thou shouldest come under my roof,
but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.**

*The newly confirmed receive Communion from the bishop
before everyone else.*

During communion the choir sings:

Listen sweet Dove unto my song,
And spread thy golden wings in me;
Hatching my tender heart so long,
Till it get wing, and flie away with thee.

Such glorious gifts thou didst bestow,
That th' earth did like a heav'n appeare;
The starres were coming down to know
If they might mend their wages, and serve here.

The sunne, which once did shine alone,
Hung down his head, and wisht for night,
When he beheld twelve sunnes for one
Going about the world, and giving light.

Lord, though we change, thou art the same;
The same sweet God of love and light:
Restore this day, for thy great name,
Unto his ancient and miraculous right.

*Words: George Herbert (1593-1633)
Music: Grayston Ives (b.1948)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Everlasting God,
comforter to the afflicted and healer to the broken,
who hast nourished us at the table of life and hope:
teach us the ways of gentleness and peace
that all the world may acknowledge
the kingdom of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Almighty God,**
we thank thee for feeding us
with the body and blood of thy Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer thee our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of thy Spirit
to live and work to thy praise and glory.
Amen.

HYMN *'Stand up for Jesus'*

Stand up, stand up, for Jesus,
ye soldiers of the cross;
lift high his royal banner,
it must not suffer loss:
from victory unto victory
his army shall he lead,
till every foe is vanquished
and Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up, for Jesus;
the trumpet call obey;
forth to the mighty conflict
in this his glorious day:
ye that are men now serve him
against unnumbered foes;
let courage rise with danger,
and strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up, for Jesus;
stand in his strength alone;
the arm of flesh will fail you,
ye dare not trust your own:
put on the Gospel armour,
and watching unto prayer,
when duty calls, or danger,
be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up, for Jesus;
the strife will not be long:
this day, the noise of battle;
the next, the victor's song.
To him that overcometh
a crown of life shall be;
he with the King of glory
shall reign eternally.

Words: George Duffield (1818-1888)

Music: 'Morning Light' by George J. Webb (1803-1887)

The Sending Out

THE BLESSING

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.

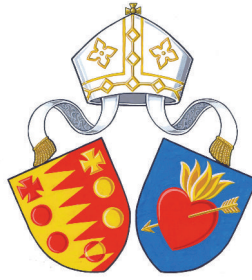
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The bishop leads the newly confirmed through the church.



Vicar

The Reverend Matthew Tomlinson

Churchwardens

Mr Stephen Hartland

Mr Paul Geddes

Director of Music

Mr Thomas Keogh

Organist

Mr John Pryer

Verger Pro Tempore

Mrs Margaret Hale



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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