

My Mission in the Faith Community

In *My Mission in the Faith Community!* students learn about Jesus Christ's mission to bring the Good News of God's love to all as a way of preparing to be confirmed. They explore saints and disciples of the past and present as role models of discipleship. They explore the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit that empower baptised people to live out the call to discipleship. At the conclusion of this unit students demonstrate their understandings of what it means for them to be a disciple and prepare to celebrate Confirmation.

DOCTRINAL FOCUS

In planning to teach this unit the following references from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church are recommended:

#737 The mission of Christ and the Holy Spirit is brought to completion in the Church, which is the Body of Christ and the Temple of the Holy Spirit. This joint mission henceforth brings Christ's faithful to share in his communion with the Father in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit *prepares* men and goes out to them with his grace, in order to draw them to Christ.

(See *Compendium #150 What is the mission of the Church?*)

#2003 Grace is first and foremost the gift of the Spirit who justifies and sanctifies us. But grace also includes the gifts that the Holy Spirit grants us to associate us with his work, to enable us to collaborate in the salvation of others and in the growth of the Body of Christ, the Church.

(See *Compendium #389 What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?* and *#390 What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit?*)

#1275 Christian initiation is accomplished by three sacraments together: Baptism, which is the beginning of new life; Confirmation, which is its strengthening; and the Eucharist, which nourishes the disciple with Christ's Body and Blood for his transformation in Christ.

(See *Compendium #268 What is the effect of Confirmation?*)

#1303 Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

- it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, 'Abba! Father!';
- it unites us more firmly with Christ;
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross.

(See *Compendium #268 What is the effect of Confirmation?*)

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION FOR TEACHERS

The Holy Spirit is the divine life within that leads us into relationship and closeness with God and with others. We can be especially aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit at times when we are making significant decisions. We can ask ourselves: does

my decision lead to life and hope or to despair, to closeness to God and others or to alienation from God and others? The mission of the Church, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is to bring all into right relationship with God.

Can you recall times when the voice of the Holy Spirit has been significant in your own life? Where were you led? Was it a voice that led to hope and life, to right relationship and closeness to God and others?

At particular times in our lives different gifts of the Holy Spirit are called forth from us. These gifts lead us to hope-filled ways of being and responding. Consider people in your own life and the gifts that have been called forth from them at different times, especially in times of difficulty. Consider people in the past and present Church from whom particular gifts of the Holy Spirit are called forth in order to foster right relationships and justice. Who among these people are an inspiration to you?

Confirmation affirms and strengthens a person's capacity to live the mission of the Church. How do the symbols, signs and rites of Confirmation convey this to you?

LINKS WITH STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES

A parish values the worth and dignity of each person. Each person is invited to contribute the gifts and abilities they have to build up the parish so that it can be a dynamic body in the local Church and the wider community. *What groups do students belong to, and how do they understand what commitment and acceptance is like in these groups? What does it mean for students to belong to a faith community?*

Students are developing an understanding that mission is an essential element of what it means to belong to a faith community. *How do the students come to understand that the mission of the Church has many faces and expressions? Do they see themselves or their families as having a role in that?*

Students are aware that the presence of the Holy Spirit empowers them to contribute to God's mission of love and justice. *Through Confirmation how do students deepen their sense of contribution to the wider Church and the world around?*

EXPLANATION OF SCRIPTURE

Lk 4: 16–30 Jesus Announces His Mission

In this passage Jesus' entire ministry is presented in summary and he announces his mission. Here he is portrayed as a model of love, hope and justice. Here we sense both the work of Jesus and the struggle for acceptance among his own people. In a framework of promise and fulfilment Luke emphasises that Jesus' life and work occur within his own Jewish tradition. In this context, Jesus' words and actions are a part of a regular visit to the synagogue, where men gather to read and comment on the Scriptures. In reading from the scroll (Isa 61: 1–2 and 58: 6) Jesus made it known that he had received God's Holy Spirit. Here Jesus revealed his messianic identity and divine mission: to proclaim liberation or freedom to those entrapped by sin, to restore vision to those trapped in darkness and to free those oppressed by injustice. Indeed, his mission is one of restoring freedom, vision and social justice among the poor, oppressed and marginalised. It is a restoration not only of individuals but of the whole society – bringing us back into relationship with God. Of course the prelude to this proclamation took place in the Magnificat of Mary (Lk 1: 46–55) and it will be reaffirmed in the Beatitudes (Lk 6: 20–23). He makes reference to 'the Lord's year of favour' – the year of Jubilee. This links his mission with the restoration of people and

property, so integral to the Jewish tradition. In the age of the Messiah the great Jubilee will occur. Jesus' declaration, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen', refers not only to the time of Jesus but to our present time when this fulfilment occurs. The astonishment of those listening to Jesus was due to the realisation that this man, whom they had known only as 'the son of the carpenter', should be the one to deliver God's true Word and fulfil God's promises of a Saviour.

POSSIBILITIES FOR PRAYER AND WORSHIP

- Decorate the prayer space with the symbols of initiation: water, oil, white garment, light, bread and wine. Use these as a focus for class prayer at various stages throughout the unit.
- Use the hymn 'All Are Welcome' (Marty Haugen, *All Are Welcome*, GIA Publications) as part of a class prayer celebration.
- Use the 'Our Heritage' reflection in *KWL*, 2nd edn, Year 6, Chapter 1, p. 12 as a guided meditation exercise, or as a responsory-style prayer.
- Invite representatives from the parish and from each class in the school to visit your classroom and pray the prayer in *KWL*, 2nd edn, Year 6, Chapter 8, p. 77 with the confirmation candidates.
- Gather around the Easter candle and baptismal font in the parish church and pray the 'Renewal of Baptismal Promises' in *KWL*, 2nd edn, Year 6, Chapter 11, pp. 103–104. Read Rom 6: 3–4. Students bless themselves with water from the font.
- Involve the students in preparing the 'Our Prayer' reflection in *KWL*, 2nd edn, Year 6, Chapter 11, p. 105. Use the symbol of oil as a focus in the prayer space. Invite students to make a Sign of the Cross on the palm of each other's hands with some oil.
- Have the students prepare a PowerPoint reflection of words and images on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This may be used for prayer at a whole-school assembly.

Related Chapters – *KWL*, 2nd edn, Year 6: Chapter 1, One in Christ Jesus; Chapter 8, The Church, People of Pentecost; Chapter 11, One in the Spirit.

Faith concepts: Confirmation, discipleship, mission, Church, justice, gifts of the Holy Spirit, fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Seeking understanding:

What is the mission of the Church?

Who inspires you by how they live out the Church’s mission?

How can you use the gifts of the Holy Spirit in your life to contribute to the Church’s mission?

What is Confirmation about, and why do people choose to be confirmed?

Understandings:

Christians are called to share Jesus’ mission: to bring the Good News of God’s love for all.

The fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit strengthen Christians to live and share Jesus’ mission in words and actions.

Saints and Spirit-filled people are disciples who use their gifts to share in Jesus Christ’s mission.

Confirmation is a sacrament of Initiation that strengthens people to live as Jesus Christ taught and to contribute to the mission of the Church.

All baptised people are able to contribute to the mission of the Church.

Scripture Text: Lk 4: 16–30 The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me!

Unit specific learning:

Students will learn about	Students will learn to	Students will undertake to
<i>Knowledge and Understanding</i>	<i>Reasoning & Responding</i>	<i>Personal & Communal Engagement</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sacrament of Confirmation as a celebration of initiation. • The proclamation of Jesus’ mission in Luke 4: 16-22 and its implications for how Christians live today. • Expressions of discipleship in the life of Mary and the lives of the Saints. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use their knowledge and experiences of past and present disciples and how they carry out the mission of the Church to reflect on how they are invited to live a life of discipleship in their own context. • Explain why they have made the decision to be confirmed in light of their new 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation. • Plan and participate in a sacrament of Confirmation Expo that demonstrates the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit in modern-day living.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ways in which the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit empower Christians to live out the mission of the Church today. • Spirit-filled people who are role models of discipleship today. 	<p>learning about Confirmation and discipleship.</p>	
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PHASES OF STUDENT INQUIRY

Additional Reading for Teachers	Orientation to Inquiry <i>What do students already know, think or feel in relation to the topic? What are students' questions about the topic? What experiences and reflections can we offer students to become engaged with the topic?</i>	Assessment: for learning, as learning, of learning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Unit Evaluation On Topic To Establish Prior Learning Use a brainstorm to find out what individual students know about the topic. Ask students to brainstorm their initial responses to the inquiry questions for the unit. Compare responses with the whole class. Read <i>KWL</i> , 2nd edn, Year 6, Chapter 11, pp. 101–102. Discuss what students already know about Confirmation. 	Assessment for Learning The brainstorm will indicate what experiences, knowledge and ideas students bring to this topic.
Confirmation is one of the sacraments of Initiation. It increases the grace of Baptism, brings us closer to Christ , anchors us more firmly within the Church and gives us a share in the gifts of the Holy Spirit which enables us to live our faith with courage and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immersion: Baptismal Promises Students read or view a presentation of the baptismal promises that they recommit to in the Confirmation Rite. See <i>KWL</i> , 2nd edn, Year 6, Chapter 11, pp. 103–104. Ask students: 	

<p>conviction.</p> <p>Confirmation originated within the celebration of baptism. The candidate was baptised in water then the bishop's hands were laid upon him or her and the Holy Spirit was invoked, together with an anointing with chrism by the bishop.</p> <p>As the Church expanded, bishops could not be present at every baptism. In the Eastern (Orthodox) Church the priest performed the rites of both baptism and chrismation. The Western (Catholic) Church chose to reserve Confirmation normally to a bishop. This led to the separation of Baptism and Confirmation into two separate but still uniquely connected rites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Who makes these promises and at what times are they made? – What does each promise look like in modern-day living? – Which promise is the biggest challenge for you? <p>Students organise and present this information on baptismal promises visually on a graphic organiser, e.g. T-chart.</p>							
<p>Confirmation, as its name implies, confirms the baptismal commitment and grace. It is an act of the Holy Spirit through the bishop. The children <i>are</i> confirmed, they do not <i>make</i> their Confirmation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wonderings, Ideas and Discoveries (WID) Organiser Students record their wonderings, ideas and discoveries about the topic. <table border="1" data-bbox="835 1038 1413 1177"> <thead> <tr> <th style="color: red;">Discoveries</th> <th style="color: red;">Wonderings</th> <th style="color: red;">Ideas</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="height: 40px;"></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>At strategic times in the unit they record their ongoing thinking on this organiser.</p>	Discoveries	Wonderings	Ideas				
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Additional Reading for Teachers	Development <i>What experiences and religious texts will provide new learning for students? What skills will students need in order to work with these resources? What strategies and tools will enable students to think and reflect on these experiences and texts? How will students process their thinking and learning?</i>	Assessment: for learning, as learning, of learning
Confirmation strengthens the Christian to become a more convinced and convincing disciple.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertile Questions (FAT Questions) Students come up with a working definition of discipleship using a dictionary or thesaurus initially. Consider: What is a disciple? Who were disciples of the past? Who are disciples of the present? Who might be disciples of the future? 	
<p>A disciple is a learner, pupil or a follower of a teacher. Christian discipleship involves following the teachings of Jesus Christ. Though we often think of a disciple as one of those who heard and believed in Jesus Christ during his life and a ministry on earth, everyone in any age who has faith in him and follows his way can be called his disciple.</p> <p>Mary, Jesus' mother, was the first disciple. She brought him into the world. She listened to his words and pondered on them. She followed Jesus Christ in his ministry and was present at each of the defining moments of his life, including his first miracle and his</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disciple Search Use Saints on Line http://www.saintsonline.org/ website to research disciples of the past. Students might choose to research the saint whose name they will take in Confirmation. Examine Mary as the role model of discipleship. Use the prayer by St Francis in <i>KWL</i>, 2nd edn, Year 6, Chapter 11, p. 108 to consider how this reflects Francis' life of discipleship. <p>After the search students revise their definitions of discipleship.</p>	Assessment as Learning Throughout the unit students will continue to reflect and refine their definitions of discipleship.

<p>death and resurrection. She is the great witness to her Son and God and a model for all believers.</p>	<p>Use the revised definitions to identify present day disciples of Jesus Christ, e.g. St Vincent de Paul Society, Caritas, parishioners, religious, teachers, grandparents and parents.</p> <p>Further refine the definitions of discipleship.</p>	
<p>Mission is a word based on the Latin word meaning 'send' or 'sent'. It refers to the task of all baptised people to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. Some do this by leaving their homes and countries to preach and teach those who have never heard the gospel, but all of us are sent (have a mission) to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ by our words and actions wherever we are. Remember the last words of every Mass are: 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord'.</p> <p>The sacrament of Confirmation prepares us for our mission of proclaiming Jesus Christ in the ordinary circumstances of our lives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture: Lk 4: 16–30 Listening and Responding to the Word Use a guided meditation to lead students through a retelling of the text. Students imagine they are one of the disciples hearing Jesus Christ's teaching. At the end of the meditation ask students which line, word, phrase or picture stays in their minds and then ask the questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What is Jesus' mission? – How did Jesus carry out his mission? – Who carries out this mission today? – How does Jesus' mission relate to you as a baptised person? <p>Using the creative arts create a piece that represents Jesus Christ's mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – digital portfolio – claymation – collage – poetry – painting or clay sculpture 	<p>Assessment as/of Learning The creative arts reflection will indicate what students have understood about Jesus Christ's mission, and how they understand their own lives in relation to this mission.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – rap song – liturgical movement 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission in the Contemporary Church: Guest Speakers People and organisations such as St Vincent de Paul Society, Caritas Australia, Catholic Missions, religious orders, parishioners, teachers and parents are role models for using their gifts to build just and compassionate communities through loving their neighbours and trying to live as Jesus Christ taught. Invite a guest speaker from the above groups to describe their work and why they do it. Prior to this, students as a class could draft a series of questions to ask the speaker. 	
<p>Gifts of the Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgment, Courage, Knowledge, Reverence, Wonder and Awe in God's Presence.</p> <p>Fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control.</p> <p>The Hebrews used the word <i>ruah</i> meaning breath or wind to describe the Holy Spirit of God as a force that gives life and help to creatures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gifts for the Mission: Gifts of the Holy Spirit At Confirmation our baptism is strengthened by the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit already present in us. Use a Cloze activity to identify and understand the significance of the Gifts of the Spirit. Refer to <i>KWL</i>, 2nd edn, Year 6, Chapter 11, pp. 106–107. <p>Fruits of the Holy Spirit</p> <p>Home Activity If we use these God-given gifts our lives will 'bear fruit', the fruits of the Spirit. With a family member, identify family members and friends</p>	

	<p>who demonstrate the fruits of the Spirit. Refer to <i>KWL</i>, 2nd edn, Year 6, Chapter 8, p. 80. Back in the classroom students create a 2D or 3D class display of the fruits of the Spirit, with significant family members and friends displayed under the gift they exemplify.</p>	
<p>Additional Reading for Teachers</p>	<p>SYNTHESIS</p> <p><i>How will students demonstrate their understandings, beliefs, values, skills and feelings in relation to the topic? How will students take action based on their learning? What strategies and tools will enable students to discern their action, to plan and implement action and to evaluate their action?</i></p>	<p>Assessment: for learning, as learning, of learning</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Re-defining Discipleship</p> <p>Students refine their definition of discipleship and share with the class. Compare this final definition with what students initially brainstormed.</p> <p>Identify possible disciples of the future. The connection needs to be made that the students are being called to be disciples through their words and actions.</p> 	<p>Assessment of/as Learning</p> <p>This definition will indicate how students' understanding of discipleship has developed throughout the unit. It will also enable students to monitor development in their own learning.</p>
<p>A creed is a statement of belief. The Catholic Church has several formal statements of the faith of the Church. The <i>Nicene Creed</i> is recited or sung at the Mass on Sundays and feast days.</p> <p>The <i>Apostles' Creed</i> is a simpler statement often used in personal prayer. Though it is a very ancient creed, it was not actually</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>A Personal Creed</p> <p>Challenge the students, as baptised Christians, to develop a creed which expresses what they know and how they want to live as disciples. I believe ...</p> 	<p>Assessment of Learning</p> <p>The creed will demonstrate what students understand and believe about discipleship and how they relate it to their own lives.</p>

composed by the apostles. Nevertheless it is a good short summary of our faith, and would be very useful to look at when helping the children to formulate their faith.

Laying on of hands

Symbolic gestures allow us to represent powerful spiritual truths. The **laying on of hands** has a long history in the Church stretching back into the ministry of Jesus himself and to the actions of the Church in New Testament times where it was used to choose and designate believers for new roles within the Church (Acts 6: 1–8) or to call the fullness of the Spirit upon the baptised (Acts 8:14–17). When the bishop lays hands on individual candidates or extends his hands over those to be confirmed, he re-enacts this ancient gesture of the Church and calls the Holy Spirit upon each of them. The fact that it is a bishop or a designated priest who makes this gesture shows that the gift of the Spirit is given through the Church, the Body of Christ.

Anointing with Oil

After the laying on of hands and the prayer invoking the Holy Spirit, the candidates approach the bishop individually and are anointed on the forehead with chrism, the perfumed oil which signifies the priestly, prophetic and royal role that each Christian shares through the identification with Christ that comes with Baptism. The **priestly** role calls Christians to offer praise and thanksgiving to God in the name of all

- **Prepare to Celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation**
Give students a copy of the Rite of Confirmation and talk through each element. Discuss the significance of the Laying on of Hands and Anointing. Students prepare general intercessions for their celebration of the sacrament.

<p>creation, praying for and on behalf of others. The prophetic role calls people to speak God's word in the world by all that they say and do; witnessing to everything that is good and speaking out for justice and peace and for those who are voiceless.</p> <p>The royal role calls Christians to imitate Christ the King through a life of personal integrity and self-control and by self-giving service of others.</p> <p>The word 'chrism' comes from the Greek for 'anointed' which is also the root of the title Christ, so this anointing expressly connects Christ and the one being confirmed, – a Christian. It is like a permanent seal on the person's Christian identity. Hence the words used – <i>Be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.</i></p>		
<p>Those who are preparing for Confirmation ought to open their hearts more and more to the gifts of God's Holy Spirit given at Baptism. No sacrament can be effective unless it is received in faith. Every effort should be made to help the candidates prepare inwardly for the sacrament through opportunities for personal prayer and reflection on the step they are taking.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-Reflection: Why are You being Confirmed? In learning logs or journals students reflect on and explain their reasons for being confirmed. Some questions for reflection might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – How do you feel about being confirmed? – Is Confirmation important to you? Why? – What is the most important reason for you to be confirmed? – How does Confirmation relate to discipleship? 	<p>Assessment as/of Learning</p> <p>The self-reflection will provide teachers with information about how students understand the significance of Confirmation for themselves, and how they approach the mission of the Church as a Confirmed Catholic. It will also enable students to be aware of their own thinking, perceptions and feelings leading up to celebrating Confirmation.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- How do you live as a disciple now?- What is challenging about living as a disciple? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sacrament of Confirmation Expo Hold a sacrament of Confirmation Expo that demonstrates how Confirmation strengthens people to live as Jesus Christ did, and to contribute to the mission of the Church by loving God and their neighbour.	
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RESOURCES

To Know, Worship and Love, 2nd Edition

Year 6: Chapter 1, One in Christ Jesus; Chapter 8, The Church, People of Pentecost; Chapter 11, One in the Spirit.

Teacher Resources

Elliot, M 2000, *Teaching and Learning in Religious Education: Strategies Handbook*, METS Publishing, Brisbane.

Ryan, M 2001, *Teaching the Bible*, Social Science Press, Katoomba.

Music, CDs

Haugen, M 1995, *All Are Welcome*, GIA Publications.

Websites

Saints on Line

<<http://www.saintsonline.org/>>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STANDARDS

This unit may be used to assess some of the Level 4 standards.

Students analyse and reflect on scripture texts and stories in Church Tradition to inform actions, attitudes and values. Students express the significance of ritual in the Catholic Tradition by planning and evaluating prayer, liturgical and sacramental experiences.