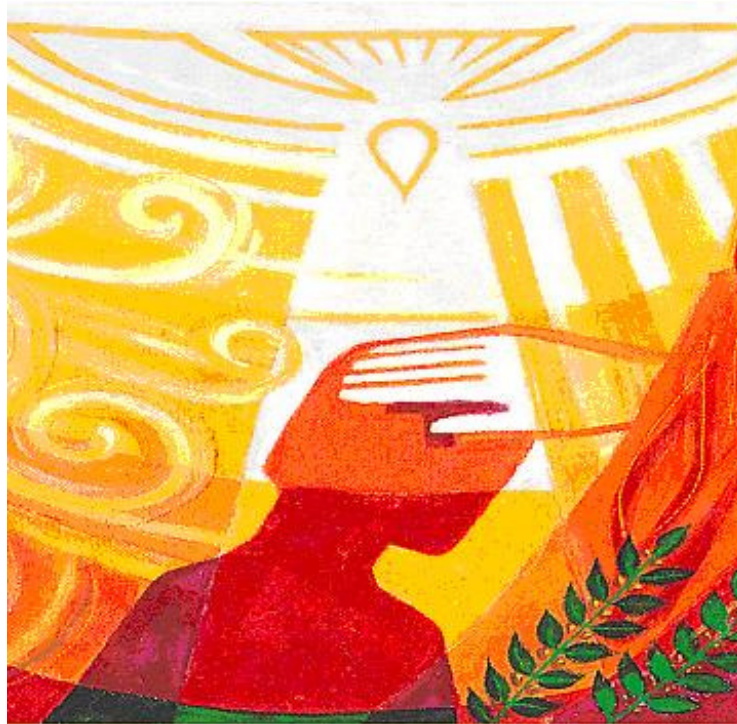


Confirmation in the Parish of Rushen



Confirmation marks the point in the Christian journey at which you affirm for yourself the faith into which you have been baptised and your intention to live a life of committed discipleship. This affirmation is confirmed through prayer and the laying on of hands by the confirming bishop. The Church also asks God to give you power through the Holy Spirit to enable you to live in the way of Jesus.

Your confirmation will be led by the bishop. It may take place during the main Sunday service at your own church or at a special service. It may also take place at the cathedral or in another church in the diocese.

There will be a confirmation course before the actual service. This will help you to have a deeper understanding about the commitment to God that you intend to make. There will also be a rehearsal to help you to understand everything that happens in the service. The priest will make sure you know where to sit and when you need to move. Some parts of the service will be for the whole congregation to join in; some will be for just you and the other confirmation candidates to say. Most of the confirmation service will normally take place at the front of the church, but for the renewal of baptism promises, candidates may be asked by the bishop to gather around the font.

When you were baptised as a child, your parents and godparents were asked to declare publicly on your behalf that they believed in God and that they would bring you up to follow Jesus. They were asked to answer, on your behalf, that you had decided to turn away from everything which is evil or sinful and instead to turn towards Christ. At confirmation, you will renew these decisions and promises. The declarations made by you will be made in front of the church congregation; the local Christian community will promise to support you and pray for you.

The bishop will make the sign of the cross on your forehead with oil. This is a sign of the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit. It is like an invisible badge to show that Christians are united with Christ and must not be ashamed to stand up for their faith in him.

If you would like to be confirmed you will, in the first instance, need to speak to Mr. Gerald Callister (Tel: 474924) who, whilst the parish does not have a Priest-in-Charge, will contact the Rural Dean, Canon Peter Robinson. He will inform you of when the next confirmation service is to take place and give details of the confirmation course you may need to attend. The confirmation in 2011 is taking place on 24th July at Arbory Church.