

The Diocese of Melbourne
Liturgical Committee

Christian Initiation

**Holy Baptism, Confirmation
and Reception into Communicant Membership**

**Confirmation of Recently Baptised Adults
and Reception into Communicant Membership**

*Authorised by the Archbishop of Melbourne
for use in the Diocese of Melbourne
17 August 2021*



Holy Baptism, Confirmation and Reception into Communicant Membership

This order begins after the second reading in Morning or Evening Prayer or after the Ministry of the Word in a Service of Holy Communion.

THE PRESENTATION

1 The minister invites all candidates to stand before the bishop

We welcome *those* who have come to be *baptised, confirmed and received into communicant membership of the Anglican Church.*

I invite you to introduce yourselves to the congregation.

Each candidate answers in turn

My name is *Name*. I ask to be *baptised, confirmed, received into communicant membership of the Anglican Church.*

THE DECISION

2 The bishop says to the candidates for baptism and/or confirmation

Before God and this congregation, you must affirm that you turn to Christ and reject all that is evil.

And so I ask: do you turn to Christ?

[Each candidate answers in turn]

I [Name,] turn to Christ.

As the candidates make their own promises, the bishop may invite all baptised Christians to reaffirm their baptismal promises with them

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you reject selfish living, and all that is false and unjust?

I reject them all.

Do you renounce Satan and all evil?

I renounce all that is evil.

Almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
and lead you in the light of Christ to his everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

3 *The bishop says to the candidates for baptism*

Will you each, by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life's end?

I will with God's help.

4 *The bishop says to the congregation*

You have heard these our brothers and sisters respond to Christ.
Will you support them in this calling?

The congregation answers

We will.

5 *The bishop says to all candidates*

I now ask you to affirm as yours the faith of the Church.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in God the Son?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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 BAPTISM

6 *The minister says to the candidates for baptism*

Grant, merciful God, that these candidates may be so buried with Christ in baptism that the new nature may be raised up in them: May the fruit of your Spirit grow and flourish in them. May they know Christ's forgiving love and continue in the fellowship and service of his Church. May they proclaim, by word and example, the good news of God in Christ. **Amen.**

7 *The minister comes to the place where the water for baptism is, and begins the thanksgiving*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have called these your servants to new birth in your Church through the waters of baptism. Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing and sanctify this water so that those who are baptised in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection. May they die to sin, rise to newness of life and continue for ever in Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we give you praise and honour in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

8 *Each candidate for baptism is brought to the water*

The minister baptises by dipping the candidates in the water, or pouring water over them, saying

Name, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

9 *When all have been baptised, the minister makes a cross on the forehead of each person*

Name, I sign you with the sign of the cross to show that you are marked as Christ's own for ever.

Live as a disciple of Christ: fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith.
Confess Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, look for his coming in glory.

10 *Candles may be presented as a sign of the light of Christ. The minister says*

God has brought you out of darkness into his marvellous light:
Shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father.

God has called you into his Church:
We therefore receive and welcome you as a member with us of the body of Christ, as a child of the one heavenly Father and as an inheritor of the Kingdom of God.

THE CONFIRMATION

11 *Those who are to be confirmed stand before the bishop, who says*

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

Blessed be the name of the Lord
now, and for ever. Amen.]

Almighty and everliving God you have given your servants new birth by water and

the Spirit, and have forgiven them their sins. Strengthen them, we pray, with the Holy Spirit that they may grow in grace. Increase in them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of discernment and inner strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fill them with wonder and awe in your presence through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

12 Those who are to be confirmed kneel or stand before the bishop, who lays a hand upon each of them saying

Strengthen, Lord, your servant *Name* with your Holy Spirit.
[Empower and sustain *them* for your service.] **Amen.**

13 After all have received the laying on of hands, the bishop invites the congregation to pray

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 RECEPTION

14 Baptised, communicant members of other churches who wish to be received into communicant membership of this church may be presented to the bishop according to the service of Reception into Communicant Membership

14A The candidate is presented by the priest and/or a lay sponsor

Name has already been baptised and has formerly been a communicant member of the *Name of Church*. They now ask to be received into communicant membership of the Anglican Church of Australia and seek our prayers in the fellowship of this parish.

14B The bishop says to the candidate

Do you stand by the Christian confession and commitment made at your baptism?
I do.

Do you desire to be admitted into communicant membership of the Anglican Church of Australia and accept her doctrine and order?

I do.

14C The bishop takes the candidate by the hand and welcomes them

Name, we recognise you as a baptised and communicant member of the Christian Church.

The congregation responds

We receive and welcome you into the communion of the Anglican Church.

14D The candidate kneels and the bishop lays hands on their head saying

Name, may the Holy Spirit direct and uphold you
in the service of Christ and his kingdom
in the fellowship of his Church.

God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
bless, preserve and keep you. **Amen.**

15 The bishop prays for all those upon whom hands have been laid

Let us pray for those who have now been *confirmed or received*:

Almighty and everliving God, watch over these your servants on whom we have now laid our hands. Let your Holy Spirit always be with them and lead them to know and obey your word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*In a Service of Holy Communion, the service continues with the Greeting of Peace,
at ¶ 33*

*In a Service of Morning or Evening Prayer, the service continues with the Prayers,
at ¶ 21*

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THE PRESENTATION

1 The minister invites all candidates to stand before the bishop

We welcome *those* who have come to be *confirmed and received into communicant membership of the Anglican Church.*

I invite you to introduce yourselves to the congregation.

Each candidate answers in turn

My name is *Name*. I ask to be *confirmed, received into communicant membership of the Anglican Church.*

THE DECISION

2a The bishop uses these words, or the provision at 2b, to address the candidates

Before God and this congregation you must affirm that you turn to Christ and reject all that is evil.

And so I ask: do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

As the candidates make their own promises, the bishop invites all baptised Christians to reaffirm their baptismal promises with them

Do you repent of your sins?

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Do you reject selfish living, and all that is false and unjust?

I reject them all.

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2b The bishop says to the candidates

Do you stand by the Christian confession and commitment made at your baptism?

I do.

3 *The bishop says to the candidates*

Will you each, by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life's end?

I will with God's help.

4 *The bishop says to the congregation*

You have heard these *our brothers and sisters* respond to Christ.
Will you support them in this calling?

The congregation answers

We will.

5 *The bishop says*

Grant, merciful God, that *these candidates* may be delivered from all evil that they may walk in the way of truth and life: open their hearts by the Holy Spirit to your grace and truth; keep them in the faith and community of your holy Church; send them into the world to witness to your love and justice and bring them and us all into the fulness of your peace and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

6 *The bishop says to all candidates*

I now ask you to affirm as yours the faith of the Church.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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;
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Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
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THE CONFIRMATION

7 Those who are to be confirmed stand before the bishop, who says

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