

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Preparation Booklet 2



" ... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

(Acts 1:8)

Where does Confirmation come from



Jesus himself gave us the **Sacrament of Confirmation**. Before he went to heaven, Jesus promised his friends (**disciples**) that he would send the Holy Spirit to give them help them to spread the **Good News** throughout the world.

Jesus kept this promise on the day of Pentecost. The day of Pentecost over 2000 years ago, then, is the day that Jesus' **apostles** received what today we call the Sacrament of Confirmation.



Wow ! Pentecost must have been a great day ! I can't wait to read what happened ...

The Day of Pentecost

Read the full story in Acts 2.

Every year the Jews celebrated a feast called Pentecost. The feast of Pentecost took place 50 days after another feast called Passover. A **feast** is a happy day.



Not long after Jesus' **crucifixion** and **resurrection**, Jesus' twelve apostles gathered together in one room. Something amazing happened that day! A strong wind came and filled the room. Then, tongues of fire came and stood beside each apostle. The apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and were suddenly able to speak in all different languages!

People were amazed to hear these men from Galilee speaking in foreign languages. At first they thought that the apostles were drunk!



The apostle Peter stood up bravely and spoke to the crowd about Jesus. He had never been able to do this before as he was too shy - but the Holy Spirit had given him strength.

The crowd really listened to Peter! In fact, thanks to Peter 3000 people were baptised that day. Today, we celebrate Pentecost 50 days after Easter.



... So three thousand people were baptised that day ...



wonder if that's why we call Pentecost the Bi



Quick Quiz

- 1 Pentecost is _ _ _ _ _ days after Easter (YTFFI).
- 2 Jesus' friends were together in one _ _ _ _ (OORM).
- 3 A strong _ _ _ _ filled the room (INDW).
- 4 They were filled with the Holy _ _ _ _ _ (TPIISR).
- 5 _ _ _ _ _ spoke to the crowd. (TEPER).
- 6 _ _ _ _ _ thousand people were baptised (EHTRE).

True or False ?

- 1 A feast day is a sad day. True False
- 2 The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost. True False
- 3 Tongues of fire stood beside them. True False
- 4 The crowd did not listen to Peter. True False

Who is the Holy Spirit ?

God is only one single being, but he exists in three persons: **the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit**. We call these three persons of God the **Trinity**. This is a very tricky thing to understand, and this is why we call it a **MYSTERY !!**

An easy way to describe the The Holy Spirit is **"God's love for us."**

The Holy Spirit is mentioned many times in the bible.
The Holy Spirit is described as being like the wind.



At Pentecost the Holy Spirit came to the apostles firstly like a wind and then like tongues of fire.



The Holy Spirit is described as a dove when Jesus is baptised.



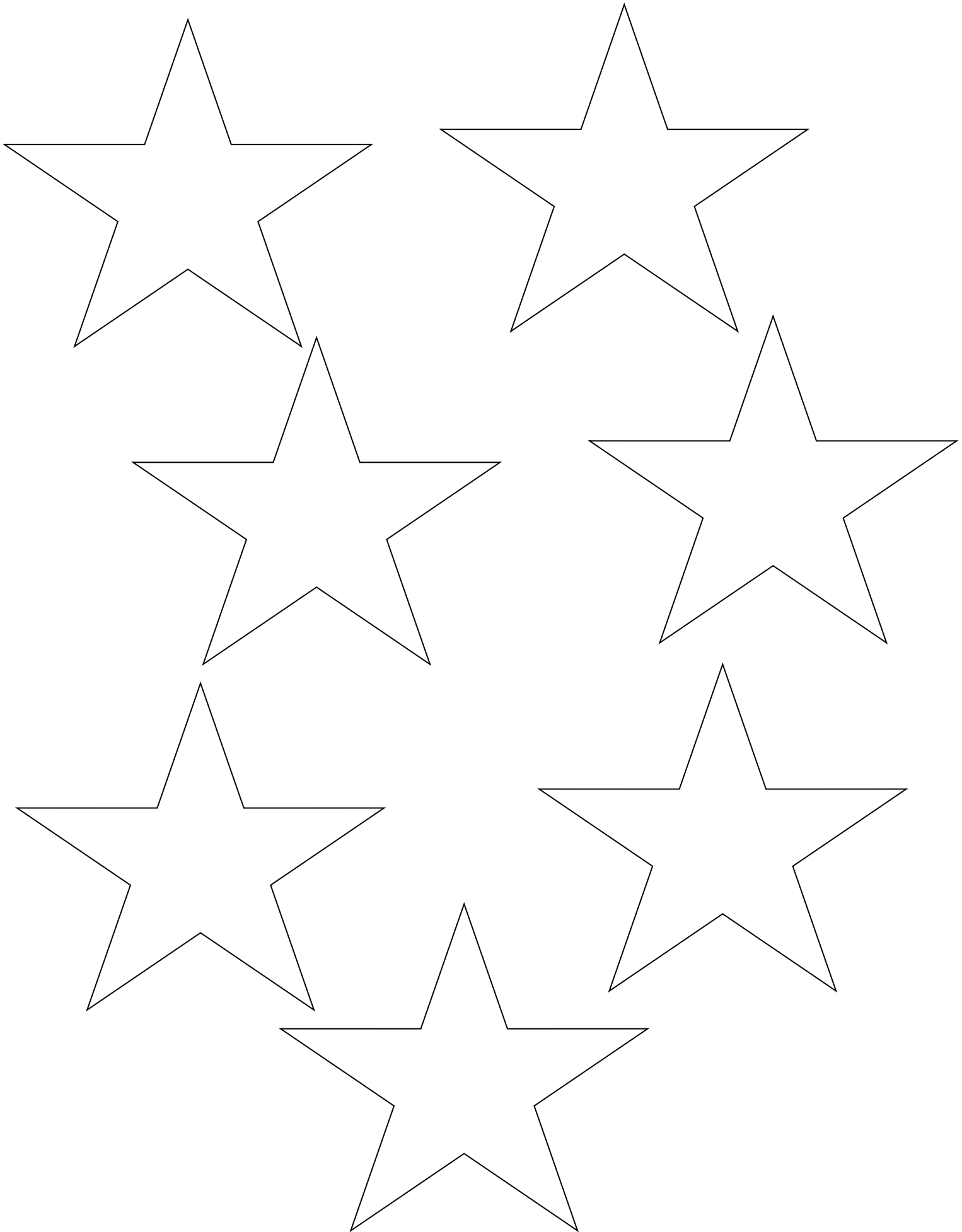
The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

When we make the Sacrament of Confirmation, we are given 7 special gifts. These gifts will help us for the rest of our lives.

- Wisdom
Making good decisions in life.
- Understanding
Understanding and seeing the world through the eyes of Christ.
- Right judgement
Making the right decisions, knowing right from wrong, choosing to do what Jesus wants us to do.
- Courage
Being strong, brave, standing up for what is right.
Living our faith bravely.
- Knowledge
Knowing what God teaches, seeing God in everything.
- Reverence
Giving worship, praise and respect to God.
- Wonder and Awe
Being full of love for God, being amazed at his goodness.



The Gifts of the Holy Spirit



Worksheet 1 Where does Confirmation Come From ? 10 mins approx

Aim: to explain that Confirmation comes from Jesus. It is not just made up! Remind them that Jesus was a Jew and that he followed the Jewish way of life and faith, but that Jesus made something new - the Church.

Read and explain the key words in bold.

Worksheet 2 - The Day of Pentecost 15 mins approx

Aim: to tell the story of Pentecost to show where the Sacrament of Confirmation comes from.

1 To set the scene, explain that Jesus had not long been crucified and had risen. The apostles were still missing Jesus and wanted to see him again as he had promised !

2 Ask the children to read a sentence each if preferable - depending on the group! Ask questions as you read, and stop at key words. "How do you think the apostles felt when the strong wind came?" "How did they feel when they saw tongues of fire?" "What happened to the apostles to show that the Holy Spirit had come ?" (Different languages).

3 Highlight Peter in particular - how he suddenly became brave enough to speak boldly to the crowd. The point is that he had changed. The Holy Spirit had changed him - he was stronger - he was using these new gifts well - so well that he recruited 3000 people !!

Worksheet 3- Quick Quiz/ True/False 15 mins approx

Aim: to revise and consolidate the main points of the story of Pentecost.

This could be done in pairs or individually. Help will be needed.

Worksheet 4 - Who Is the Holy Spirit?

10 mins approx

Aim: to help the children to understand who the Holy Spirit is, and to introduce a very basic understanding idea of the Trinity.

1 The holy Spirit is tricky to describe to kids, so stick to reminding them that it is " **the love of God for us.**"

2 Explain that wind, fire and the dove are signs to help us imagine the power of the Holy Spirit.

Worksheet 5 - The Gifts of the the Holy Spirit?

10 mins approx

Aim: to familiarise the children with the names of the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit

1 Go through each gift individually and try to give examples of a time when you (the leader) were wise, understanding, courageous, etc. Personal experiences will help the children understand the gifts better.

2 Ask which gift is their favourite - which one do they need most? They will give a variety of responses.

Worksheet 6 - The Gifts of the Holy Spirit? (Stars) 15 mins approx

Ask the children to write the name of one gift of the Holy Spirit in each star and decorate it/colour it in.

They could cut out each star and use it to decorate their bedroom wall at home or their school RE jotter ???