

CONFIRMATION 2011-2012

Confirmation is the sacramental practice of the Church of England when, after a period of preparation, candidates renew their baptismal vows, receive the laying on of hands from a bishop and are admitted to the service of Holy Communion. Each year the Chaplains run classes for Confirmation. Groups for the coming academic year will begin in the Michaelmas Quarter for a confirmation in 2012. I shall be retiring on 31st December 2011 but the new Senior Chaplain, Rev Brian Cunningham will be taking over from 1st January 2012.

If your son or daughter is interested in exploring confirmation, please complete the form attached as a document with this mailing and send to The Senior Chaplain, Oundle School, Oundle Peterborough PE8 4GH or attach by e mail to ICB@oundleschool.org.uk

Launde Abbey Away Day: Friday 7th October 2011

Confirmation preparation begins with an opening presentation in the delightful surroundings of Launde Abbey in Leicestershire. Launde Abbey is a seventeenth century house, set in parkland on the site of an Augustinian Priory. It has a small medieval chapel and is the retreat centre for the Diocese of Leicester. The day will be led by Nic Shaw, the Youth Worker of the Churches of Oundle. It will give pupils a chance to explore the meaning of confirmation and the Christian faith away from the pressures of school life. <http://www.launde.org.uk/> The cost of the visit is about £40-50.

Confirmation Preparation

In the Christmas and Easter Quarters pupils meet for ten sessions in small groups with one of the Chaplains, and work through a course on Christian belief and practice. They will explore beliefs about the Holy Trinity; the Church, its worship and prayer; the sacraments; and Christian living.

Launde Abbey Retreat: 2012

There will be a day retreat at Launde Abbey prior to confirmation. This will allow pupils time for reflection so that they can then make the decision to be confirmed or not. The cost of the visit is about £40.

Confirmation Service: 1700 Saturday 17th March 2012

The service takes place in the School Chapel and takes the form of Confirmation and First Communion of candidates. We hope that the service will be taken by Rt. Rev. Donald Allister, the Bishop of Peterborough. There is limited seating in the chapel and usually 8-10 seats are available for family and friends. After the service there is a reception so that candidates and their guests may meet the presiding bishop.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **When may pupils be confirmed?**

We believe that pupils are best able to prepare for confirmation from about the age of fourteen, which in practice means Fourth Form and above. We tend to discourage members of the First and Second Form, but on occasion Third Form pupils have joined classes when they have felt ready to do so.

2. **How are lessons conducted?**

For the course we use the book *Your Faith Confirmed* by Peter Jackson and Christopher Wright. Classes usually have between five and ten pupils and this allows for discussion as well as instruction. The visits to Launde Abbey enable other voices to be heard and there are workshops which engage pupils in various practical ways. The days at Launde also contain simple forms of service which give insight into ways of worship which are different from the large-scale services in chapel.

3. **What happens if my son or daughter is not baptised (christened)?**

Each year there are usually pupils who, for one reason or another, have not been baptised in early childhood. This is not a problem; baptisms take place in the week prior to confirmation, and parents are welcome to attend. When teenage children are baptised they do not need godparents as they speak for themselves, but they may invite sponsors to support them at baptism.

4. **How may we help those who are being prepared?**

There are several things that you can do to help someone preparing for confirmation. The Church prays for candidates, and that is something which can be done by parents and godparents. Many candidates know their godparents who undertook the baptismal vows for them and promised to encourage them in faith and worship. If these links have lapsed, they can be renewed and godparents invited to the service. Parent and godparents can take an intelligent interest in the preparation given and discuss this with candidates.

5. **How may we involve our local parish church?**

The degree to which people belong to their local church community and participate in it varies. Day pupils might like to explore being confirmed locally, in which case they should contact the Vicar or Rector of their parish. We would hope there is a living contact with the local church for the holiday period and it is a good idea to inform the priest about the possibility of a confirmation at school. We are very happy for other clergy to come along to the School service.

6. **How long does the service last?**

The Service of Confirmation and First Communion has usually taken about one hour and a quarter. If the presiding bishop prefers a service with communion of the congregation of

several hundred people, the service might last one hour and forty minutes.

7. What happens after the service?

There is always a reception so that families may meet the bishop. After this pupils may have an exeat and return home until Sunday evening. This should be arranged with Housemasters or Housemistresses. If parents are staying locally, pupils may stay with parents. There are various places locally where meals can be booked. It is recommended that you book early for meals or accommodation. The Chaplain may be contacted for advice, as can the local Tourist Information Office.

If there are other questions do not hesitate to contact either of the Chaplains.

Telephone Numbers:

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