

six weeks during school terms prior to the confirmation itself. We will provide you with these details at an introductory information evening.

I'M STILL UNSURE!

This brochure can only be brief, so if you still have any questions about Confirmation or you are having difficulties understanding something which is contained within this brochure, then we would be more than happy to try and answer them for you.

For more information please contact:
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THE WORD 'DISCIPLE' MEANS 'A LEARNER'.
WE ARE ALL LEARNERS, UNDER THE GREAT TEACHER,
JESUS.



ST STEPHENS ANGLICAN CHURCH
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Growing a Christian community for all

At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. *Philippians 2:10-11*



WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation is a Christian Rite where those who baptised as an infant confess for themselves faith in Jesus Christ made on their behalf by their parents and godparents.

In the past, Confirmation, has been understood as the completion of Baptism and enables the individual to become a complete member of God's Church and share in the bread and wine at the Holy Communion. This understanding is now understood as incomplete and Baptism, alone, is the rite of complete Church membership.

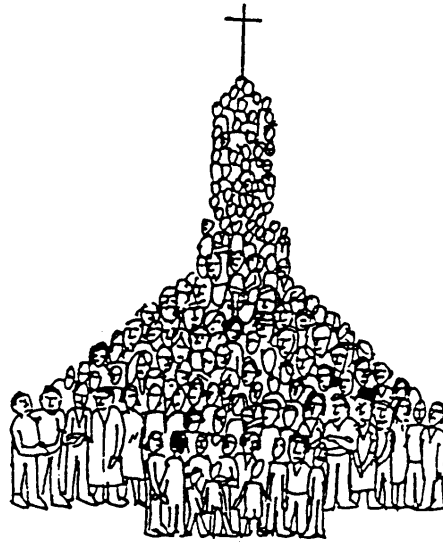
However, because Christians place such importance in the Holy Communion, it is appropriate that those who share in it understand why we celebrate with bread and wine as well as understand the faith we proclaim. Confirmation is, therefore, a Rite where an individual publicly declares their faith in Jesus Christ, their desire to work against all that destroys the fullness of human life, their willingness to grow in understanding of God and their desire to be a part of the Church.

Confirmation is a rite which reminds us of God's free gift of restoring love (grace) and, with the Bishop, we pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit inspire participation in the work of the Church we call ministry. Confirmation is not a graduation from Sunday School or Youth Group, but a rite that reminds and encourages all of us to take adult responsibility within God's Church.

WHO CAN BE CONFIRMED?

Confirmation is available for anyone who wishes to take the promises of their Baptism seriously for themselves and be committed to Christ and his people. If you are over the age of 12 years and have been baptised with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, you are eligible for Confirmation. If you have not been baptised, but would like to make this act of commitment to Christ and be involved in the life of the Church, then we can organise baptism for you as well.

WHY BE CONFIRMED?



There is absolutely no reason why you should be confirmed. You don't have to be confirmed to be a Christian nor does being confirmed make you a Christian. Just as in our everyday life we state publicly what we believe concerning one matter or another, Confirmation is an opportunity to publicly state your faith in Christ. It is the willingness of the heart, and mind, to take seriously the promises of Baptism which makes you a Christian and enables God to answer the prayers of the service of Confirmation.



WHAT DO I DO NOW?

Certainly it would be unfair of us to leave you on your own. Firstly, fill out the application form and either return it to us by post, or, better still, come along to one of our Sunday Worship and bring the form with you. You can hand it to the minister in person so they can get to know you. Secondly, we will keep in contact with you and notify you of the Confirmation preparation classes. These classes

are designed to help you to be sure of what you are promising God and help you understand what it means to be a Christian.

WHEN IS CONFIRMATION?

The Bishop is the member of the Church in which the authority lies to confirm. Therefore, the times and dates of Confirmation rest entirely on when he is available. We have booked the Bishop for a set date and we will notify you when that is.

WHEN DO THE PREPARATION CLASSES START?

Preparation classes for adults and young people will happen separately and at different times. Confirmation classes will take place over a period of



The Rt Revd Kate Prowd
Bishop Of the Oodthenong
Episcopal Area