**The Rite of Confirmation.**

*Confirmation takes place within the celebration of the Eucharist. It consists of four elements:*

**1 Presentation of the Candidate**

After the gospel the candidates stand and present themselves to the bishop. They stand independently, in mark contrast to baptism when they were presented by their parents. It signifies their desire to be followers of Jesus Christ and to witness to their faith.

**2 Renewal of Baptismal Promises**

For a Christian, there is no oath taken during one’s lifetime that is as solemn and important as the baptismal promises. The young people renew their baptismal promises. They now choose to publically profess their faith in God, as Father, as Son, and as Spirit. They declare themselves in public as lifelong followers of Jesus Christ.

**3 Laying on of Hands**

The gesture of laying on of hands was an ancient practice which denoted that someone was set apart for a particular role. There was a sense of power being bestowed on someone through the laying on of hands. In the Rite of Confirmation, the laying on of hands is done by the bishop extending his hands over those being confirmed and praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the seven-fold gifts that accompany the Holy Spirit’s presence.

In Confirmation the laying on of hands on the young person confirms them as people set apart, as disciples, as young leaders in their church community. The Holy Spirit will continue to work through those young people who are open to the grace offered to them in the sacrament.

**4 Anointing with Chrism**

The name Christ means ‘the anointed one.’ Anointing was important as it set someone apart.

Anointing with the oil of Chrism in the form of a cross on the young person’s forehead reminds each of us that we are called to witness to our faith. When the young person is anointed with Chrism by the bishop, it is a sealing of their baptism, when they were given a share in Jesus’ family and given a share in his mission to live and spread the Good News. What they have done publically, they must continue to do publically.

The oil is blessed by the Bishop at the Chrism Mass. Chrism signifies strength and the balm signifies the sweetness which virtue must give to our lives. The bishop uses the Confirmation name when anointing the individual being confirmed. It is a reminder to the young person that they belong to God and are committing to God.