

Suggested Scripture Passages for use in Confirmation Ceremonies in the Diocese of Killaloe 2013

Please choose from the following passages below –it could be good for the candidates to read and reflect on each of them, to choose which of these speaks to them most and to include their selection in their ceremony and perhaps others in a Ceremony of Light.

The structure of the Liturgy of the Word is normally:

First reading

Responsorial Psalm (*preferably sung*)

Second reading (*optional*)

A Gospel Acclamation (*always sung*)

Gospel

FIRST READING: *Outside of Easter Time this is usually taken from the Old Testament*

1. A reading from the prophet Isaiah 61:1-3

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord,
a day of vengeance for our God,

to comfort all those who mourn
and to give them
for ashes – a garland
for a mourning robe – the oil of gladness,
for despondency, praise.

(silence.....)

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Or:

2. A reading from the prophet Ezekiel 36:24-28

The Lord says this:

I am going to take you from among the nations
and gather you together from all the foreign countries,
and bring you home to your own land.

I shall pour clean water over you and you will be cleansed;
I shall cleanse you of all your defilement and all your idols.

I shall give you a new heart, and put a new spirit in you;
I shall remove the heart of stone from your bodies
and give you a heart of flesh instead.
I shall put my spirit in you,
and make you keep my laws and sincerely respect my observances.
You will live in the land which I gave your ancestors.
You shall be my people and I will be your God.
(silence.....)

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

In the Easter Season, the 1st reading can be taken from the Acts of the Apostles:

3. A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

(silence.....)

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

4. A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47

(N.B. not to be used if the other Acts of the Apostles reading (No. 3 above) has already been proclaimed)

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

(silence.....)

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Or:

5. A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

(silence.....)

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Or

6. A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 1: 13. 15-19

Now you too, in Christ Jesus have heard the message of the truth and the good news of your salvation, and have believed it; and you too have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise.

I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him.

May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers.

(silence.....)

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

A reading from the First letter of St. Paul to Timothy (4: v.12-15)

Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith, and purity. Do not neglect the spiritual gift that is in you, which was given to you when the prophets spoke and the elders laid their hands on you. Practice these things and devote yourself to them, in order that your progress may be seen by all.

The word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God

Or

A Reading of the Second letter of St. Paul to Timothy (2 Tim 1:6-9)

I am reminding you now to fan into a flame the gift of God that you possess through the laying on of my hands.

God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power and love and self-control.

So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to our Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but share in my hardships for the sake of the gospel, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy -- not because of anything we ourselves had done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time,

GOSPEL:

Mark 1:9-11

Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

(silence.....)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Or:

John 14:15-17

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,

and he will give you another Advocate

to be with you for ever,

that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive

since it neither sees nor knows him;

but you know him,

because he is with you, he is in you.'

(silence.....)

The Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.