

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a ceremony in which people publicly declare their commitment to Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, profess what they believe as a Christian and promise to strive to serve and obey him as a member of the church. To prepare people to make these claims, we will run training to cover these 4 topics:

1. What is a Christian?
2. What does a Christian believe?
3. How does a Christian grow?
4. How does a Christian serve?

Confirmation does not appear in the Bible; Jesus was never confirmed! What is it then and why do we confirm people? Confirmation is practised by the Presbyterian, Anglican and Roman Catholic denominations. For Presbyterians and Anglicans, Confirmation is used as an opportunity for children who were baptised as infants to make their own confession of faith in Christ and for them to declare their membership of the congregation. Confirmation has a different meaning and significance for Roman Catholics.

Denominations that do not practise infant baptism do not confirm, but have adult (or, believer's) baptism. The Baptist and Church of Christ denominations favour this approach. We practise infant baptism because we believe that the children of believers are special to God (see 1 Corinthians 7:14) and so we want to treat them as believers until they make it clear that they are not. We pray in the baptism service that God will use our teaching of his word to bring them into real life with him. Confirmation is the public ceremony where people who have been baptised declare that they are followers of Jesus Christ and that they want to be members of this church (this gathering of God's people).

In the Anglican denomination a Bishop confirms Christians. He is chosen to do this as a representative of the denomination. In Confirmation, the bishop lays hands on those who have been baptized and instructed in the Christian faith, praying over them that God's indwelling Spirit will strengthen and guide them. The laying of hands is an old symbol showing his fellowship (as a representative of the denomination) with the candidate.

Who should get confirmed?

It is an important Biblical practice that all Christians make a public confession of faith. This can either be by:

- Baptism, if the person wasn't baptised as an infant
- Confirmation, if the person was baptised as an infant

If you are a Christian, and haven't yet made a public confession of faith, then we encourage you to do so.

At what age should I get confirmed?

There is no age mandated for when people should get confirmed. We suggest that the person is at least 14-15 years old – old enough to make these promises for themselves:

- I turn to Christ
- I repent of my sins
- I renounce evil
- I will strive to follow God's holy law and commandments, and serve him faithfully throughout my life.

When is Confirmation?

Our confirmation service will be held on **Sunday, 1st September, at 6pm**. Bishop Peter Lin will preach and lead the confirmation.

When will the preparation classes be held?

Confirmation classes will be held at Moorebank on the following days:

- 1) Sunday 28th July at 4pm
- 2) Sunday 4th August at 4pm
- 3) Sunday 11th August at 4pm
- 4) Sunday 18th August at 4pm

For more information, please contact Dave Philpott (david@mhachurch.com or 0419 984 105).