Planning the Liturgy of the Word for Confirmation

- Choose two readings and a Responsorial Psalm.
- The Acclamation Verse and Gospel passage have already been selected for this year and placed in the template booklets.
- Readers should begin wth "A reading from..."; (omit "First reading" etc.)
- While the Responsorial Psalm can be sung from the ambo, the Acclamation with verse should be ideally sung from elsewhere (by the whole congregation/choir and not individuals in the sanctuary) so the priest/deacon can easily move to the ambo while it is being sung.
- It is best for the readers and psalmist to come up together and to wait in the sanctuary until the conclusion of the Gospel reading, at which point they can return together to their places.

First Readings

during Eastertide one of the following readings (I – III) is read as the First Reading

I

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. *Acts 1:3-8*

Jesus had shown himself alive to the apostles after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

The Word of the Lord.

II

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. *Acts 2:1-6*

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. Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language.

The Word of the Lord.

III

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. *Acts 8:1, 4, 14-17*

A bitter persecution started against the church in Jerusalem, and everyone except the apostles fled to the country districts of Judaea and Samaria. Those who had escaped went from place to place preaching the Good News. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people in Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

DURING THE REST OF THE YEAR, IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE READINGS, ONE OF THE FOLLOWING READINGS MAY BE USED AS A FIRST READING

IV

A reading from the prophet Isaiah. *Isaiah 11:1-4a*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
The fear of the Lord is his breath.
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

The Word of the Lord.

V

A reading from the prophet Isaiah *Isaiah 61:l-3a.*

The spirit of the Lord 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 mourning robe the oil of gladness,
for despondency, praise.

The Word of the Lord.

VI

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel. *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.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalms

Ideally the responsorial psalm is sung or may be read instead.

suggestions for musical settings are available in the Music Resource

VII

Psalm 23

Ps 23:1-3a. 3b-4. 5-6.

Response: *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose. *Response:*

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name. *Response:*

If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. *Response:*

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. *Response:*

Surely goodness and kindness
shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. *Response:*

VIII

PSALM 96

Ps 96:1-2a. 2b-3. 9-10a. 11-12.

Response: *Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.*

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord,
bless his name. *Response:*

Proclaim the Lord's help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. *Response:*

Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' *Response:*

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy. *Response:*

IX

Psalm 104

Ps 104: 1, 24. 27-28. 30-31. 33-34.

Response: Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are.
How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all. *Response:*

The earth is full of your riches.
All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill. *Response:*

You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.
May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works! *Response:*

I will sing to the Lord all my life,
make music to my God while I live.
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord. *Response:*

SECOND READINGS

FOR USE AT ANY TIME OF THE YEAR

X

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians. *1 Corinthians 12:4-13*

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit;
there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord;
working in all sorts of different ways in different people,
it is the same God who is working in all of them.
The particular way in which the Spirit
is given to each person is for a good purpose.
One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit;
another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit;
and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit;
another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit;
one, the power of miracles;
another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits;
another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them.
All these are the work of one and the same Spirit,
who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.
Just as a human body,
though it is made up of many parts,
is a single unit because all these parts,
though many, make one body, so it is with Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptised,
Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens,
and one Spirit was given to us all.

The Word of the Lord.

XI

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians.

Galatians 5:16-17, 22-23a, 24-25

If you are guided by the Spirit
you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence,
since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit,
the Spirit is totally against such a thing,
and it is precisely because the two are so opposed
that you do not always carry out your good intentions.
What the Spirit brings is very different:
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
trustfulness, gentleness and self-control.
You cannot belong to Christ Jesus
unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desires.
Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

XII

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy *2 Timothy 1:6-9a, 13-14*

That is why 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. Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. With the help of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, look after that precious thing given in trust.

The Word of the Lord.

XIII

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians Col 3:12-17

As the chosen of God, then, the holy people whom he loves,
you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion,
in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience.
Bear with one another;
forgive each other if one of you has a complaint against another.
The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same.
Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond.
And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts,
because it is for this that you were called together in one body.
Always be thankful.
Let the Word of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you.
Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom.
With gratitude in your hearts
sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God;
and whatever you say or do,
let it be in the name of the Lord Jesus,
in thanksgiving to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

XIV

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians *1Thess 5:16-24*

Always be joyful; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks;
this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.
Do not stifle the Spirit or despise the gift of prophecy;
test everything and hold on to what is good
and shun every form of evil.
May the God of peace make you perfect and holy;
and may your spirit, life and body be kept blameless
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
He who has called you is trustworthy and will carry it out.

The Word of the Lord.

XV

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans. *Romans 8:14-17*

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a child of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons and daughters, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

The Word of the Lord.