

you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live for ever and ever. **All: Amen.**

Bishop: The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **All: And also with you.**

Bishop: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

[Here we exchange an appropriate gesture of peace with those around us]

All: Agnus Dei (Sanctus setting – on laminated card)

KNEEL *Bishop:* This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

[The Bishop & Fr Philip receive Holy Communion and go to the High Altar. If you wish to receive Holy Communion, please follow Max, George and Harry to the High Altar. Communicants of other Churches are welcome to receive. If you would like a blessing, please come to the altar rail holding this booklet.]

Hymn during Communion: **401 & 508**

SIT Post Communion Hymn: **623**

Silence as we thank God for coming to us in Holy Communion

STAND Post-Communion Prayer (At end:) **All: Amen**

SIT Notices

STAND

CONCLUDING RITE

Bishop: The Lord be with you. **All: And also with you.**

Blessing

Fr Philip: Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

(After each clause) **All: Amen**

Bishop: May Almighty God bless you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Fr Philip: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and to serve each other.

All: Thanks be to God

Recessional Hymn: **609**

Please stay after Mass to welcome Harry, George and Max, to meet the Bishop and enjoy refreshments at the back of the church.

St Mary the Virgin, Mendlesham

Vicar: Fr Philip Gray, BA, SSC

SOLEMN CONCELEBRATED MASS

&

CONFIRMATION

by the Lord Bishop of Richborough

22nd July 2021



ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to St Mary's church. Please pray for the Confirmation candidates:

Harry Elstone, George Jessup, Max Morgan-Lucas

Please keep silence during the last 5 minutes before Mass

STAND when the bell rings in the Sacristy

Entrance Hymn: 60 v 1 – 3

(as the altar party makes its way to the altar, which is censed as a symbol of prayer)

The Bishop introduces the Mass

Bishop: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **All: Amen.**

Bishop: Peace be with you. **All: And also with you.**

PENITENTIAL RITE

Bishop: Forgive us, Lord, when we have chosen our ways instead of yours: Lord, have mercy. **All: Lord, have mercy.**

Bishop: Forgive us, when our lives have not shown your love: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Bishop: Forgive us, Lord, for those times we fear to open our hearts to you and fail to allow the Holy Spirit to work in us: Lord, have mercy. **All: Lord, have mercy.**

Bishop: May almighty God have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in goodness and keep you in life eternal, through Christ our Lord. **All: Amen.**

All: *(sing) Gloria* (Sanctus setting – on laminated card)

Opening prayer

Bishop: Father, your Son first entrusted to Mary Magdalene the joyful news of his resurrection. By her prayers and example may we proclaim Christ as our living Lord and one day see him in glory, for he who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

SIT: **First Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17** *Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation*

(At end): Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God!**

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 62 (63): 2-6, 8-9

Response: **For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God**

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. ®

Offertory prayers

Bishop: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life. **All: Blessed be God for ever.**

Bishop: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink. **All: Blessed be God for ever.**

Hymn (cont'd): 227 v 2 & 3

Bishop: Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

Prayer over the Gifts *(At the end)* **All: Amen.**

Bishop: The Lord be with you. **All: And also with you.**

Bishop: Lift up your hearts. **All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Bishop: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

The bishop says or sings the Preface

All: *(sing) Sanctus & Benedictus* (Sanctus setting – on laminated card)

KNEEL

The Eucharistic prayer

in which the bread and wine are consecrated to become the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

(After the Consecration): Bishop: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Mystery of Faith: (Sanctus setting – on laminated card)

Bishop: (at end of Eucharistic Prayer) Through Him, with Him, in Him in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

STAND **All:** *(sing)* **Blessed and praised be Jesus Christ in the most Holy Sacrament. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in excelsis!**

All:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bishop: Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Bishop: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles: I leave you peace, my peace I give

The Bishop anoints each candidate with the oil of Chrism saying-

Bishop: (Name), be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Candidate: Amen.

Bishop: Peace be with you

Candidate: And also with you.

The Bishop invites the congregation to pray for George, Harry and Max, now newly-confirmed

All: Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace, that they may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

STAND: **Prayer of the Faithful**

Bishop: My brothers and sisters, let us ask God our Father for all the gifts of his Holy Spirit, as we celebrate this Sacrament of Confirmation.

Reader: Let us pray for Harry, Max and George who have been Confirmed today. May the reception of Confirmation strengthen them in their Christian faith and renew in them their Baptismal commitment. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: Let us pray for their sponsors; by their example may they encourage them in the daily practice of their faith, whom the Church commits to their spiritual care and so grow together in holiness of life. Lord Hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: Let us pray for all Christians, especially this community here present. May we be strengthened in our faith, so that, in the years ahead we may always remain open to the Holy Spirit and remain faithful despite all obstacles. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader: The Holy Spirit came down on Mary, and with her we say:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Bishop: Father, your Spirit renews our world. May He fill us with your love and enable us to do your will. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Offertory Hymn: 227 v 1

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. ☩

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. ☩

For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. ☩

STAND: **Gospel Hymn: 60 v 4 & 5**

All: Alleluia, alleluia! Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way. The tomb the Living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as he rose! Alleluia!

Fr Philip: The Lord be with you. **All: And also with you.**

Fr Philip: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

All: (sing) Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gospel: John 20 v 12, 11-8 Mary Magdalen meets the Risen Jesus on the first Easter Day.

At end: Fr Philip: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: (sing) Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

SIT **Sermon** *The Rt Revd. Norman Banks, Bishop of Richborough*

LITURGY OF INITIATION

STAND

CONFIRMATION

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Bishop: Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

Candidates: I have.

Bishop: Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I am.

To the congregation the Bishop says-

Bishop: Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their life in Christ?

All: With the help of God, we will.

THE DECISION

The congregation sits. The Bishop addresses each candidate:

Bishop: In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with Him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

Candidates: I reject them.

Bishop: Do renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

Candidates: I renounce them.

Bishop: Do you repent of the sin that separate us from God and neighbour?

Candidates: I repent of them.

Bishop: Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

Candidates: I turn to Christ.

Bishop: Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

Candidates: I submit to Christ.

Bishop: Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

Candidates: I come to Christ.

STAND *The Bishop, clergy and all the candidates go to the font.*

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Bishop addresses the whole congregation:

Bishop: Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with these candidates the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Bishop: Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven; he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Bishop: Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Having proclaimed our baptismal faith before the Bishop, Harry, Max and George come to the font and signs themselves with water. The baptismal rite concludes with this prayer:

Bishop: Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptized in your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **All: Amen.**

Hymn on return to the altar:

**Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire.**

**Thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.**

**Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love.**

**Enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight.**

**Anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace.**

**Keep far from foes, give peace at home:
where thou art guide, no ill can come.**

**Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but One,
that through the ages all along,
this may be our endless song:**

**Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

THE CONFIRMATION

The congregation kneels. The Bishop stands before the candidates who are to be confirmed and says-

Bishop: Our help is in the name of the Lord, **All: who has made heaven and earth.**

Bishop: Blessed be the name of the Lord, **All: now and forever. Amen.**

The Prayer over the Candidates.

The Bishop extends his hands and prays-

Bishop: Almighty and ever living God, you have given this your servants new birth in baptism by water and the Spirit, and have forgiven them all their sins. Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them :

the Spirit of wisdom and understanding; **All: Amen.**

the Spirit of counsel and inward strength; **All: Amen.**

the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness; **All: Amen.**

and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord. **All: Amen.**

SIT *Fr Philip presents each candidate to the Bishop.*

The Bishop addresses Max George and Harry by name:

Bishop: (Name..), God has called you by name and made you his own.

The Bishop then lays his hand on each candidate's head saying-

Bishop: Confirm, O Lord, your servant (Name) with your Holy Spirit.

Candidate: Amen.