Confirmation Retreat Running Sheet

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| Opening prayer (The Apostles Creed) |  |
| The salvation story | 9:00-9:20 |
| The Apostles Creed |  |
| Gifts of the Holy Spirit Pass the Parcel Game | 9:20-9:30 |
| The Pentecost story | 9:30-9:50 |
| The Apostles Creed |  |
| The Effect of Baptism and Confirmation  (Choc Milk Activity) | 9:50-10:00 |
| Renewal of the Baptismal Promises and oils (Torch) | 10:00-10:05 |
| The Apostles Creed |  |
| Fruits of the Holy Spirit Bingo Game | 10:05-10:10 |
| Reflection | 10:10-10:25 |
| Morning Tea Break | 10:25-10:45 |
| Sponsors | 10:45-10:50 |
| Laying of Hands | 10:50-11:05 |
| Bindwalas | 11:05-12:00 |

**Salvation Script (20mins)**

**Equipment**

Laminated images 1 – 12

Coloured cloth

Script

Student journals

Image 1

*In the beginning God created the world and everything in it, the plants and animals, man and woman.*

Image 2

*Adam and Eve were our first parents.*

Image 3

*The devil tempted Eve to eat the fruit from the forbidden trees by lying to her and twisting the truth.*

Image 4

*Now sin separates us from God.*

Image 5

*Sin happens when we choose evil instead of good, when we choose to listen to the devil instead of God.*

Image 6

*God gave us intellect to know right from wrong and free will to voluntarily do right or wrong.*

Image 7

*Jesus the son of God was sent to fix our problem with sin. Jesus was born to a virgin named Mary in a place called Bethlehem.*

Image 8

*Jesus grew up to be a man who taught people many things, most importantly he taught us about God and how we should treat one another.*

Image 9

*At the Last Supper Jesus shared with us his body and blood through the bread and blood. This is shared with us through Holy Communion.*

Image 10

*Jesus took all our sins and died for us on the cross.*

Image 11

*After Jesus’ death he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven.*

Image 12

*At Pentecost the Apostles received the Holy Spirit and they went out and started the Church.*

Individual reflection time for students

**Pentecost story (20mins)**

**Equipment**

Bible

Reflection questions displayed

Large copy of *The Pentecost*

Four copies of *The Pentecost* (one for each group)

Four pieces of butcher’s paper

Transition song and prayer

Listen to Acts 2:1-12.

Reflection questions

1. What words were used to describe what filled the whole house?
2. The wind is used as a symbol to represent what?
3. The tongues of fire are used as a symbol to represent what?
4. What did the tongues of fire do?
5. What gift was given to the followers of Jesus?

Students split into small groups and view *The Pentecost* by Jean Restout 1732. They mind map their responses to the following questions.

1. What are the flames on each of the people’s heads? (tongues of fire)
2. Why were the disciples locked in the upper room? (they were afraid)
3. Who looks surprised in the painting (The Apostles)
4. Who doesn’t look surprised? (Mary) Why? (Mary is sinless and she is ready for the coming of the Holy Spirit)
5. After the Holy Spirit came upon them in a strong wind and with tongues of fire, what happened next?
6. After receiving the Holy Spirit were the Apostles afraid? (no) Why? (The Holy Spirit took away their fear and gave them courage, boldness and strength to tell others about Jesus).

Students come back together as a whole group to share their responses to the above questions.

This painter (*point to the picture*) decided to make Pentecost look very dramatic, with the

fire and the expressions of the disciples. At your confirmation you will probably not see

tongues of fire and you may not have this dramatic of an experience on the outside, but

the Holy Spirit is going to work in you the same way. You will be given the gift of the Holy

Spirit just like the disciples received. The same Holy Spirit wants to do great things in you!

The Holy Spirit will help you to go and boldly talk and share the Good News with other

people. The Good News is all you have learned from your parents, your pastor and

teachers about Jesus Christ and His Church.

Transition prayer – Apostles Creed

Song

**The Renewal of Baptismal Promises (5mins)**

**Equipment**

Two flashlights (one without batteries)

Transition prayer & Song

Two students are given flashlights and asked to stand up the front of the class. The students hear how we are just like flashlights of Christ, we were created to give off light, the light of Christ. Students are then asked to turn their flashlights on. Only one flashlight turns on and students are asked why this might be. Students are able to discover that one flashlight is missing batteries.

*The batteries are the Holy Spirit. When we have the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives we are like the flashlight with batteries. We are given the gift of the Holy Spirit at our Baptism. He comes and lives in our hearts and gives each of us power to live a life that pleases God. Without the Holy Spirit we are like the flashlight without batteries, we don’t work like we were designed to work.*

Transition prayer – Apostles Creed

Song

**Chocolate Milk Activity (15mins)**

***Activity -*** *The Importance of the Holy Spirit acting in our lives*

***Objective -*** *To help children learn about the effects of the Holy Spirit*

***Equipment***

*Clear glass of milk*

*Chocolate syrup*

*spoon*

We are going to do a little demonstration of what is happening in our soul when the Holy Spirit

pours His Grace into us. It is an analogy.

We begin with this glass (*point to the glass*), this is like us before Baptism.

***Fill the glass with milk.***

The milk represents you and I on the day of our Baptism. The chocolate I

am about to use represents the spiritual gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit that day.

***Squeeze the syrup three times into the milk but do not stir it up yet.***

At Baptism, the priest said the prayer and poured water over our heads saying: “I baptise

you in the name of the Father (*squeeze*), and of the Son (*squeeze*) and of the Holy Spirit

(*squeeze*). At that moment we became children of God and members of God’s family! We didn’t

look any different than before we were baptized with water (hold up the glass), but actually a huge

change took place! God adopted us and we became members of His family, the Church.

***Squeeze more syrup into the milk*.**

Now at Confirmation, the Bishop places chrism oil on your head and says: “Be sealed

with the gift of the Holy Spirit” (***squeeze a generous amount in****)* And you say “Amen”. Amen means

“Yes! It is true.”

***Pick up spoon to stir.***

Well, saying “Amen” is like stirring up the Holy Spirit.

***Stir the syrup so it is now chocolate milk***

You won’t look any different than before you were confirmed but you may feel joyful inside because

you have been sealed with the Holy Spirit and now have all the grace and help that you need to

live out your Catholic faith!

In this example, the chocolate syrup is like the spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit that are given to us in

baptism and confirmation. Remember the Pentecost story? Jesus promised that He and the

Father would send a helper, the Holy Spirit, but we must cooperate with the Holy Spirit. If we

choose not to pray and obey the Holy Spirit then we are like the glass of chocolate milk that when

you leave it to sit, (WHAT HAPPENS?) the chocolate will separate and sink to the bottom of the

glass and the milk will no longer taste chocolaty.

So, what should we do to cooperate with and keep the Holy Spirit stirred up in our lives?

Students given outline of Holy Spirit and they record their ideas of how they are going to keep the Holy Spirit alive. For example: pray, use the gifts of the Holy Spirit, obey the 10 commandments, go to Mass, go to Reconciliation, read the Bible, be kind to others, share with the poor, develop the gifts of the Holy Spirit.