

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

28th January 2018

Prayer: May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be pleasing in your sight O Lord my rock and redeemer (Ps. 19:14)

Welcome: Confirmands, Parents, Guardians, God parents (sponsors)

Appreciation: Provost and the entire pastoral team.

ACP – for the good works of the building the new cathedral. We encourage you parents to support this project – next time you will not sit outside.

I. CONFIRMATION DAY

- I believe many of you especially confirmands you have been looking forward to this day.
- A day you are going to be confirmed and commissioned for the mission of Christ and His Church.
- You are going to be commissioned and become disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- The day you were baptized your parents and God parents spoke on your behalf and they promised to bring you to this day when you can speak words of commitment for yourself.
- 278 X 3 = 828 God parents expected
- You are going to speak words of commitment that will help you live as God's people into the future.
- In the promises you are going to make you will be telling us how you are going to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ.
- Many of us who have been confirmed already you will agree with me that it is very easy to forget these promises.
- Promises like those of Peter who said "I will never deny you." Yet he did it how many times? 3
- The disciples of Jesus spent 3 years with Him, Listening and learning from Jesus every day.
- And they participated in His ministry and saw the miracles.
- But at the end of this full-time on-the-job, intensive training, the results were shocking / not good at all.
 - o Peter denied Him 3 times
 - o One betrayed Him?
 - o All of them fled into hiding in fear at His arrest.
 - o One doubted His resurrection from the dead.
- If this happened with the disciples of Jesus to the extent of betraying their master and denying Him – and yet they had spent 3 years with him what about us today?
- Jesus knew that all these things will happen.
- That is why He promises them a counsellor the Holy Spirit. John 14:26
"I am going but the counsellor the Holy Spirit from my Father will teach you all things and remind you everything I have said to you"

- Without the Holy Spirit you will not be able to fulfill the promises you are going to make today.
- Without the Holy Spirit you will not be able to stand against the evil forces in the world today.

Forces like:

- Drug abuse
- Bad friends who can influence you and lead you astray.
- Pornography on social media. Facebook, Twitter, whatsapp.
- Homosexuality and lesbianism e.t.c Despite all the challenges we face day to day. We want to encourage parents to be the role models of your children.
- In confirmation we come to be filled with the holy spirit through the laying on hands and strengthened with the power for worship, witness and service

Turn with me to Matthew 5:13-16

SALT AND LIGHT – Matthew 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth.

But if Salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything expect to be thrown out and tramped by men.

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to every one in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven.

- in this scripture Matthew 5:13-16. Jesus uses two powerful metaphors or examples to describe His people.
- He calls us both salt and light.
- Both of these substances are valuable and very useful and important.
- Salt and light have the ability to alter/change their environment / world.
- When Jesus called us Salt and light, He was telling us that we were left in this world to influence it for the glory of God.
- But it is not the world to influence us. It is us to influence the world.
Thermometer – adjusts according to temperature. Thermostat – changes the temperature.

SALT; Matthew 5:13 – You are the Salt of the earth.

Qualities of Salt.

- Salt enhances flavor – food without salt will be bland – tasteless. You must enhance the world around you.
- Salt preserves and purifies.
- Your purpose as disciples of Jesus Christ is to preserve morality and purity in the world.

- As you share Christ with the lost people, you will be introducing purity to them.
- As you share Christ with the lost people – you will be preserving them from eternal condemnation.
- As you must be godly examples in the world and must resist the moral decay and corruption evident in society.
- Salt creates thirst
 - It has been said that you can lead a horse to a spring/ water but you can not force it to drink.
 - But if you feed it with same salt, then it will get thirsty and drink
 - You cannot force someone to become a Christian to be born again.
 - Like salt though, our testimony and life can make them thirst for what is missing in their life that they see in ours – Jesus Christ.

LIGHT; Matthew 5:14 “You and the light of the world”

- As children of God we are called to shine like light in the darkness.
- a. LIGHT REQUIRES AN ENERGY SOURCE.
 - In order for the light to be emitted, there must be a source of energy.
 - Having a bulb, electric poles, and wires is not a guarantee that light will be emitted.
 - Having a Christian name, baptized, born in a Christian family – is not a guarantee that you are a child of God. We must take step of faith and receive Jesus Christ as lord and savior.
 - Our source of energy as believers is Jesus Christ.
 - i. This source will never run out
 - ii. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
 - John 12:46 “I have come into the world as a light so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.”
- b. LIGHT DISPELS DARKNESS / IT MAKES THE DARKNESS FLEE
 - John 1:5 “the light shines in the darkness, but the darkness did not comprehend it, understood it, overpower it.”
 - One of the purposes of light is to dispel darkness.
 - And just a little light will do that.
 - The light of one small match would dispel the darkness of the entire room.

Proverbs 4:19 “But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they don’t know what makes them stumble”

Vs 16: “Let your light shine before me, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven ”

- This little guiding light of mine, I am gonna let it shine.
- This little guiding light of mine, I am gonna let it shine.
- This little guiding light of mine, I am gonna let it shine.
- Let it shine, let it shine all the way.

LIGHT

- Love people (neighbours passionately)
- We must depend on the lord of love to put His compassion for people in us.
- Mark 6:34 “When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.”

INTERCEDE FOR THEM

Paul describes the lost as being spiritually blind and therefore cannot see the light.

- It is only God who can give sight to the spiritually blind.
- Pray that their eyes will be opened.

2 Cor 4:3-4 “And even if the gospel is veiled (hidden) it is veiled to those who are perishing.” The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of the Christ, who is the image of God.

GO TO THEM PURPOSEFULLY.

- The great commission clearly places the responsibility upon us Matthew 28:19. We must go and teach all nations. Go make disciples and preach the gospel.

HELP THEM PRACTICALLY

- Our light, your light shines when we care for people in Jesus’ name.
- People will begin to care what we say, when they see how much we care.

TELL THEM PLAINLY

When you get opportunity, tell people about Jesus without fear.

PRAYER.

Empower us dear Lord.

Fill us with the Holy Spirit.

We welcome you, Lord.

Teach us the word of God and lead us into all truth.

We pray for the fullness and power of your Holy Spirit to come upon us.

We will listen to Him and not grieve Him.

Enable us to experience your presence and power each day.

Use us for your purposes and your glory. Thank you, dear Lord. In Jesus name we pray – Amen.

- If you have not accepted Jesus as your savior.
- Dear lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. Thank you for dying on the cross for me.
- I repent of my sins.

- Come into my life, Lord Jesus. I receive you as my savior and Lord. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life.
- In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Thermometer – always adjust to the temperature in the environment.

Compromises

Thermostat – It changes the temperature in the environment.