

The Bishop of Winchester

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The Diocese of
Winchester



September 2004

Dear Colleague,

I enclose a copy of the confirmation list for 2005.

I am sure you will encourage as many parishioners to be present for confirmation services held either on a weekday or a Sunday to support all the candidates.

The Rite of Confirmation is now that of Common Worship (unless your parish uses the BCP). This makes it especially important that the parish priest consults the confirming Bishop not later than three weeks before the date of the confirmation with a draft of the service, as well as about the choice of Scripture readings. The Bishop will also be glad to know, for his prayers and for his preparation, the names of those to be confirmed and whether they are adults or younger people.

It has been our practice for some years now to have the plate collection at every confirmation going to the work of the Church overseas, equally divided between the Diocesan Overseas Partnerships Committee (OPC) for use in our partner dioceses, and a Mission Society or cause chosen by the parish. Please send funds for the former to the Overseas Partnerships Committee at Church House, Winchester (with the cheque payable to the 'Winchester DBF'), including a note of the mission society or cause where you are sending the other half. The money for the chosen mission society should be sent directly to it.

The half share of the plate collection at confirmations is the main source of funds that the OPC can put to use in our partner dioceses. Please therefore note in the Order of Service where the money will be distributed to.

EASTER EVE VIGIL AND CONFIRMATION – CATHEDRAL

I would like to encourage you to think of bringing candidates from parishes to attend the Easter Eve Vigil and confirmation service in the Cathedral. The invitation comes with the full support of the Dean and Chapter. This service follows the pattern of the traditional Great Liturgy of Easter. The Vigil (in darkness) is followed by the Service of Light, the proclamation of the Resurrection, the Liturgy of Initiation (Baptism and Confirmation) and the Liturgy of the Sacrament, in which Christ's gathered people are united with the risen Lord.

If you do have candidates who would like to be confirmed at this service, would you please let my secretary know in the first instance.

Of course, all are welcome to attend the service.

Continued

I and my fellow Bishops greatly appreciate the ministry in which we all together share and in the preparation of candidates for confirmation.

With my good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

+ Michael Winton: