

**Sermon given by Bishop Martin at the confirmation service on the Feast  
of Christ the King on Sunday 23 November 2025**

(To the candidates)

God has called you by name, and made you his own.

Confirm O Lord your servant, with your Holy Spirit.

What an amazing night this is. This is the night that you confirm your decision to follow Jesus. To reject evil, turn away from sin, and give your life to Jesus Christ, the Lord of heaven and earth. Tonight God sees you. God loves you, and God is calling you to him. Tonight is your chance to say 'Yes. I turn to Christ.'

He has known and loved you from before you were born. Watched over you throughout your life. He has known your hopes and your fears, your troubles and your many joys. Tonight as you make your vows, as you make your confession of faith by the font, you will be sprinkled with Holy Water. Jesus washes away all your sins, all your failings, all your fears washed away. We are washed in the blood of the lamb, as its sometimes said. By Jesus death on the cross we are made clean. As we heard just now, 'in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.'

Jesus, St Paul tells us,

'has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.'

And there's more. For in Jesus we find the promise of eternal life.

As our Lord said to the criminal who was being put to death alongside Jesus. 'Today you will be with me in Paradise.' Eternal life with Jesus means life that really is life here and now, and life everlasting when we die.

How amazing is that! This life is not all there is. For a Christian death is not the end, sin never has the last word. In the end God wins. Love wins. And we will share in love and joy and peace with Him forever.

All of you have shared something of your journey with me, and thank you for doing that. Your journey with God began many years ago, before you even knew it, God was with you, calling you to follow him. And now you are here.

So this is the night you make your promise to follow Jesus all the days of your life. And this is the night you know that God will walk beside you all the days of your life.

The road won't be easy. Christians often have to endure many things.

But we are never alone: 'Brothers and sisters: says St Paul, 'May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father.'

We are given food for the journey. The Word of God in the bible. Read it each day. The body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion. Receive it today, and receive it each week. Pray each and every day. Rest in Jesus. Talk with Him. Let your God love you, let Jesus feed you with his very self.

I wonder where you will be at 10 o'clock tomorrow? School, college, work home? That is your mission field. Where God has called you to live and work for Him.

Always be thankful. Our world is full of hate. People have problems and look for who to blame. There is too much anger. God has made us for himself and our hearts will be forever unsatisfied until they find their place in God.

Be thankful that God has brought you home to his heart. Find something to be thankful for every day, however small that is. Be the hope of eternal happiness to whomever you meet. Let them know that God is in you, God is with you and it brings you joy. Then they will want that too and you can bring them to the only source of light and life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

May God bless you as you are confirmed tonight. May God bless you as you live for him.

Amen.