

3. Anointed Priest, Prophet and King



Background information for parents/carers

"Set me like a seal upon your heart, since love is stronger than death."
Song of Songs 8: 6

The central part of the Confirmation ceremony involves the bishop anointing your child with the oil of Chrism and saying, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." This section explores the meaning of this gesture and words, in which your child will be invited to live more like Jesus, the Christ or anointed one. Jesus was a priest, prophet and king, and while these words are still quite common in our language today, they require a bit of explanation.

The idea of a seal is also an ancient one, and in the home session, your family will be invited to write a private prayer letter or list to God, and seal it, just as kings used to seal important, secret letters. In this way, you will be able to ask for the seal of God's blessing and protection upon your family life.

Bible references for this theme:

Exodus 40: 12-16

1 Kings 1: 38-40

Isaiah 61: 1-4

Luke 4: 16-21

During this theme your child will become more familiar with the following key vocabulary:

Anointed by the Holy Spirit
priest, prophet and king
seal of the Holy Spirit

School Session

An old definition of the sacraments calls them "an outward sign of inward grace." Grace is the help, blessing and strength which God gives us.



Complete the table below of some outward signs of God's inner gifts to us.

Outward sign	Sacrament or liturgy	What the sign means (signifies)/is inwardly
Ashes on forehead	Ash Wednesday	Sign of penitence
Bread and wine		
	Baptism	
Making three crosses on forehead, lips and chest		
	Confirmation	Being anointed priest, prophet and king

All through the bible, **oil** is used as a sign of someone being anointed priest, prophet and king. Jesus is the Christ, (which is Greek for 'the anointed one'), who was a priest, prophet and king. The aim of Confirmation, where we are anointed with oil by the bishop, is to make us more like Jesus.

Look up the following passages, which tell us about other people who were anointed priests, prophets and kings in the Old Testament:



Exodus 40: 12-16 (Aaron the priest anointed)

1 Kings 1: 38-40 (Solomon is anointed king)

Isaiah 61: 1-4 (the suffering servant given the oil of gladness)

Now read again the account of Jesus in the synagogue in Luke 4: 16-21, and with the help of your teacher and classmates, apply these definitions to **Jesus**, and also to **yourself** as a candidate for Confirmation:

Priest: *A priest is a person who offers sacrifice*

Jesus was a priest because:

I can be like a priest by:

Prophet: *A prophet does God's will and speaks up for the truth*

Jesus was a prophet because:

I can be a prophet by:

King: *A king is chosen to uphold the values of the kingdom*

Jesus was a king because:

I can uphold the values of the God's kingdom by:

Home Session 3



Discuss with your parent/carer some of the ways you can strive to be like Jesus, the anointed priest, prophet and king.

Read the following passage over with your parent/carer:

When we are anointed with the Holy Spirit at Confirmation, the bishop says "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." This means that Confirmation cannot be repeated, as the gift of the Holy Spirit remains with us forever.



Long ago, kings and other important people would place a wax seal with their coat of arms on the letters they sent. The person receiving knew the letter was genuinely from the king and not someone pretending to be him. The wax seal also ensured that the letter had not been opened, and that no one had read the secret contents.



In Jesus' time, soldiers were marked with their leader's seal, and slaves with their master's.

Task:

Write a prayer letter or prayer list to God, thanking God for His gifts and asking for the things which are most important to you at this time.

Ask anyone in your immediate family who would be happy to take part (Dad/Mum/carer/brothers/sisters) to write a similar letter too.

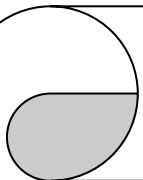
Once the letters/lists are complete, put them together into one envelope and seal the envelope. You could draw your own special seal on the envelope, write 'private' on it, or get your teacher/another adult to seal it with wax.

Stick your private sealed letter below:

My sealed letter to God



May God guide these, our words and our thoughts, and be pleased to accept our thanks and listen to our prayers, through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Prayer Time at Home



This could be a good time to reflect on your experiences this week.

- Light a candle if you have one (your child's Baptismal candle could also be used.)
- You may want to set up a small altar as a point to focus on during your prayer, this could consist of a Bible, flowers and your candle.
- Place the sealed prayer envelope in a prominent place.
- Close your eyes for a couple of minutes and think about how God's Spirit has been in your heart this week and how your experiences have brought you closer to him.
- When finished reflecting, say together:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

God our Father,

We thank you for the secret thoughts and prayers which we have written, and for the opportunity to pray as a family. Help us to be marked and sealed by the Holy Spirit's protection, today and always.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

