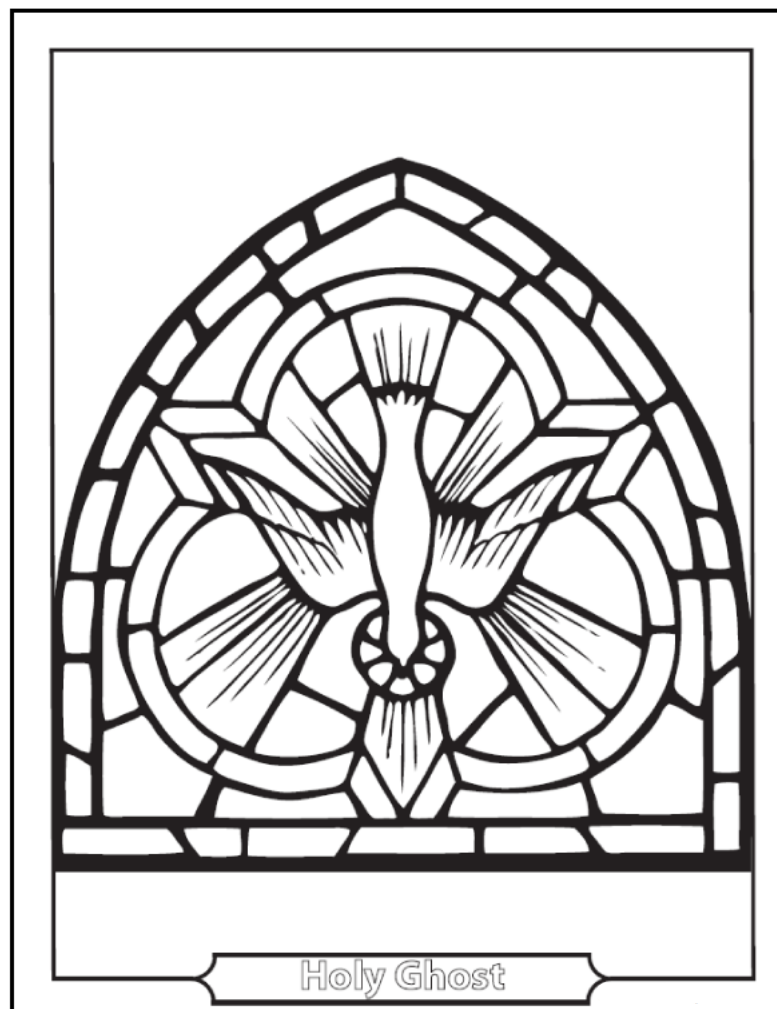


St Mary the Virgin and All Saints, Potters Bar

Service of Confirmation & Holy Communion

Sixth Sunday of Easter

10th May 2026



The Right Reverend Rob Wickham
Honorary Assistant Bishop

The Gathering

We stand for the Processional Hymn

**Lord, for the years
your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us,
cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us,
pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years,
we bring our thanks today.**

**Lord, for that word,
the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts
and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains,
rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word,
receive your people's praise.**

**Lord, for our land
in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure,
wealth and care:
for young and old,
for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land,
be pleased to hear our prayer.**

**Lord, for our world
when we disown and doubt you,
loveless in strength,
and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless,
lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world,
we pray that Christ may reign.**

**Lord for ourselves;
in living power remake us –
self on the cross
and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us,
for the future take us:
Lord of our lives,
to live for Christ alone.**

**Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

There is one body and one Spirit.
There is one hope to which we were called;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism.
one God and Father of all.

Peace be with you
And also with you

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Bishop introduces the service.

Deacon: Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments, and to live in love and peace with all.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Let us pray:

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; though Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

We sit for our readings

The Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (17:22-31)

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.”

What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the First Letter of Peter (3:13-22)

Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence.

Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water.

And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here;
Come bow before Him now
with reverence and fear:
In Him no sin is found –
we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.**

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned:
How awesome is the sight –
our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.**

**Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace –
No work too hard for Him.
In faith receive from Him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.**

We remain standing for the Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

This is the Spirit of truth;
he abides with you, and will be in you.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (14:15-21)

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON – Bishop Rob

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

The candidates for confirmation are presented to the Bishop and congregation, and stands as their names are called. The Bishop asks:

Have you been baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit?

I have

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

I am

The Bishop addresses the congregation:

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will

THE DECISION

The Bishop addresses the candidates:

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Bishop addresses the congregation:

Brothers and Sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his son, Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again;
he ascended into heaven.
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

THE CONFIRMATION

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Who has made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord,

Now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty and ever-living God, you have given us your servants new birth in baptism by water and the Spirit, and have forgiven us all our sins. Let your Holy Spirit now rest upon these candidates: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding; the Spirit of counsel and inward strength; the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness; and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord. **Amen.**

The Bishop calls each candidate forward, saying to each in turn:

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

Then laying his hands upon them he says:

Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The candidate is then anointed with the oil of chrism, the Bishop saying:

Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

After the anointing we pray together:

Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace, that they may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until they come to your everlasting Kingdom. Amen.

RECEPTION INTO THE COMMUNION OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The candidate for reception is presented to the Bishop.

Jordan, you are here to be received into the communion of the Church of England.

Do you acknowledge the Church of England to as part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church?

I do.

Do you accept the teaching, discipline and authority of the Church of England?

I do.

Will you take part with us in worship and mission?

I will.

The Bishop takes the candidate by the hand and says

Jordan, we recognize you as a member of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church; and we receive you into the communion of the Church of England in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE COMMISSION

The Congregation stands and the Bishop says to all:

Those who are baptised are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by praying for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the face of the earth?

With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. **Amen.**

THE WELCOME

The Bishop says:

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism.
By one spirit we were all baptised into one body.

**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father.
We welcome you.**

The congregation greet the candidate with applause.

THE PEACE

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given us the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Deacon: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The peace is shared.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

We sing our next hymn, during which bread and wine are brought to the altar and a collection is taken for Christian Aid.

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them,
they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them,
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you
And also with you
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,

almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.
For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence, as our Saviour has taught us,
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Bishop, clergy and people receive Communion.

Those who belong to other Christian denominations and are regular communicants are invited to come forward to receive communion. Please hold your hands out, one palm supporting the other, to receive the bread, and then move to the chalice bearer to receive the wine.

Those who have not been confirmed or do not wish to take communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. So that the clergy will know this is what you wish, please come up holding your service sheet in your hands.

During Communion the Choir will sing the Anthem "O Lord, give thy Holy Spirit" by Thomas Tallis.

Following this we sing the Communion hymn.

**Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast,
body of Christ, be thou my saving guest,
blood of my Saviour, bathe me in thy tide,
wash me with water flowing from thy side.**

**Strength and protection may thy Passion be,
O blessèd Jesu, hear and answer me;
deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me,
so shall I never, never part from thee.**

**Guard and defend me from the foe malign,
in death's dread moments make me only thine;
call me and bid me come to thee on high
where I may praise thee with thy saints for ay.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Bishop says:

Let us pray:
God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you, the spring of live and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

The Vicar gives the notices.

*Following that we sing the final hymn, at the conclusion of which the newly confirmed
come up to receive a lighted candle.*

**Go forth and tell! O Church of God, awake!
God's saving news to all the nations take;
proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord, and King,
that all the world his worthy praise may sing.**

**Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;
he will in grace respond to all who call:
how shall they call if they have never heard
the gracious invitation of his word?**

**Go forth and tell where still the darkness lies;
in wealth or want, the sinner surely dies:
give us, O Lord, concern of heart and mind,
a love like yours which cares for all mankind.**

**Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide:
share God's good gifts let no one be denied;
live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,
your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.**

**Go forth and tell! O Church of God, arise!
go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;
go till all nations his great name adore
and serve him, Lord and King for evermore.**

The Sending Out

The Bishop says to the newly Confirmed:

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.
You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your lives.

Shine as a light in the world, to the glory of God the Father.

God of mercy and love,
by one Spirit we have all been baptized into one body
and made to drink of the one Spirit;
we thank you for the gifts you have given to these your servants
for the building up of the body of Christ.
Grant that they may continue in the life of the Spirit
and walk with us in the light and obedience of Christ.
By the same Spirit,
fill the whole Church with your overflowing love;
give us knowledge and discernment of your will,
and steadfastness in your service,
until we all come to the unity of the faith,
to the measure of the full stature of Christ,
through whom we make our prayer.
Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is Risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Deacon: Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.