

## **Confirmation**

Our Sacrament of Confirmation programme for 2016-2017 enabled our 42 candidates to strengthen their relationship with God, receive the seal of the Holy Spirit and deepen their baptismal grace.

Utilizing a number of resources, including the "I Am Confirmed"



programme produced by the Middlesbrough Diocesan Trust supplemented with a number of sessions taken from our previous programme "Being More Like Christ", our candidates looked at a number of themes as part of their preparation for being confirmed. These included exploring the Church and its role as a community, the Person of Jesus, Reconciliation, the Confirmation Ceremony and its symbols,

as well as the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that they would receive: Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgement, Courage, Knowledge, Reverence and Wonder & Awe. The course combined an overview of the themes; Scripture readings, as well as practical exercises designed to invoke discussion of the key issues and was delivered by a group of friendly and enthusiastic catechists.

In addition to the programme, our Confirmandi met up for their Away-Day at British Home for the Incurables in January 2017;



here they engaged in fun activities but also learnt about the history of the Home as well examining injustice and how using their gifts of the Holy Spirit they could work for the good of the people. For many of our group, it was also their first

experience of participating in Benediction.

The Programme also included a trip to Wembley SSE Arena in March 2017 where the Group attended Flame 2017. This gathering presented



us with an opportunity to come together with young people from all corners of England and Wales in order to renew our faith through prayer, music and listening to talks from motivational speakers.



All the hard work and preparation by candidates, their families, sponsors, catechists and clergy culminated in our Confirmation Mass held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June and celebrated by Bishop Pat Lynch. It was beautifully observed and fully participated in celebration of the Lord's Supper. Bishop Pat was highly commended everybody involved in the preparation of the St Bart's for this Mass, he also praised the candidates for their efforts in the celebration and their knowledge of the sacrament. (A large number of our parishioners who were in attendance on the evening also praised the candidates for their efforts).

Finally, our candidates helped to raise over £1000 for the British Home and St Bartholomew's SVP through two Coffee Mornings and a collection at the Confirmation Mass.



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