

St. Patrick's Church – Confirmation

Session 3 The Church and Faith

The Faith Community

You are not alone!!!

(split into groups).

1. You have probably been told that you are an *individual* and that you are *unique*.

What makes you different from everyone else? Think of 3 things that make you unique.

a).....

b).....

c).....

2. However, there is no getting away from the fact that humans are social people and we share many characteristics which may be physical, emotional or behavioural.

How many times have you heard:

“He or she looks like granddad or grandma etc...”

Sometimes we are mistaken for someone else. Have you ever thought that there might be someone out there who looks exactly like you!!!!!!

As a social group we also share many emotional feelings. Most people laugh at the same joke.

Three men: Tom, Fred and Bill were in a grave yard.

Fred said, “Look at this grave stone, this person called Sean passed away at the age of 87.”

Fred then said: “Will you look at this, here’s one, Michael is his name and he passed away at the age of 99 years”.

Bill excitedly replied: “ I can beat you all, here is one that is 145!”

“What’s his name?” asked Fred.

Bill replied: " Miles from London".

As a social group we also share behaviour. You might follow a particular fashion or have your hair cut in a way that signals to others the sort of person you are. Sometimes we think the same as others, but we do not always see the same thing as other people.

Look at some of the pictures on the 2nd booklet.

Take the first picture, picture A:

Can you see a young woman or can you see the old woman?

Picture B: Are all the police the same size? Yes or No.

Spend a few minutes looking at the other pictures.

Sometimes we do not all see the same thing!!!!!!.

Apart from your immediate family, you also belong to a community of people called The CATHOLIC CHURCH. The Church is referred to as a family.

How can other people tell that you belong to the Catholic Church? Try to write 3 or 4 suggestions.

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You entered your family by being born into it.

How did you enter the catholic Church?.....

Any member of the parish could have been at your baptism. This means that you are an individual and a member of a community.

Confirmation is another sacrament and like baptism it will be a public event. The public nature of the occasion means that people are witnessing you becoming an adult within the church.

During Confirmation you will renew your Baptismal Promises. WHY? Your parents made the promise for you, now you are old enough to make them yourselves.

Confirmation is built on the foundation of baptism. In Confirmation you will be more fully bound to the church. This means you will be expected to be a true witness of Christ and help spread the faith. This is what being an adult means in the church community.

In what practical ways can you help to spread the faith? (3 suggestions?)

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Role of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation

Confirmation has also been called the Sacrament of the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament the prophets said that the spirit of God would come down on the Messiah and strengthen Him for His Mission.

At Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit appeared as a and God said
.....in whom I am well pleased.

The Holy Spirit was not just for the Messiah (Jesus), but for all the people of God. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would strengthen His followers. This happened at **Pentecost** when the Holy Spirit appeared to the apostles as tongues of fire.

The sign for imparting the Holy Spirit was the **laying on of hands** and followed baptism with water. A further sign was added later. This was the anointing with **perfumed oil**, called **oil of Chrism**. Chrism comes from Christ and means 'anointed'. After confirmation a Christian can be considered as a person 'anointed with the Holy Spirit'.

Water and oil play important roles in all the sacraments.

Why use water so much. Can you think of several uses of water in the Catholic Church?

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Why use Oil? Oils were expensive (especially perfumed oils). It was also a sign of plenty. Oil was associated with being clean e.g. used after bathing, use for healing wounds etc.... In confirmation oil is used as a symbol of consecration – this means that the candidate being confirmed shares more completely in the mission of Christ.

(Let us return now into a whole group.)

Prayer

Lord, send forth your Spirit.

Leader:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

Response: (Please say together in groups)

Group A:

Bless the Lord my soul, Lord God how great you are.

Group B:

Clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe.

Group C:

How many are your works O Lord, in wisdom you have made them all.

Group A

The earth is full of your riches, bless the Lord my soul.

Group B:

You take back your Spirit, they die, return to the dust from which they came.

Group C:

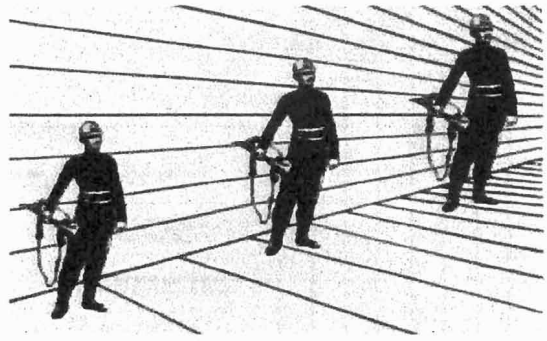
You send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

ALL: Lord, my confirmation will be soon. Please help me to prepare properly. To get the most out of the sacrament, help me to understand what will happen during the ceremony. Make me open to the Holy Spirit. Guide me in carrying out your mission during my life. God be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. *AMEN.*

Optical illusions: DO YOU SEE THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE?

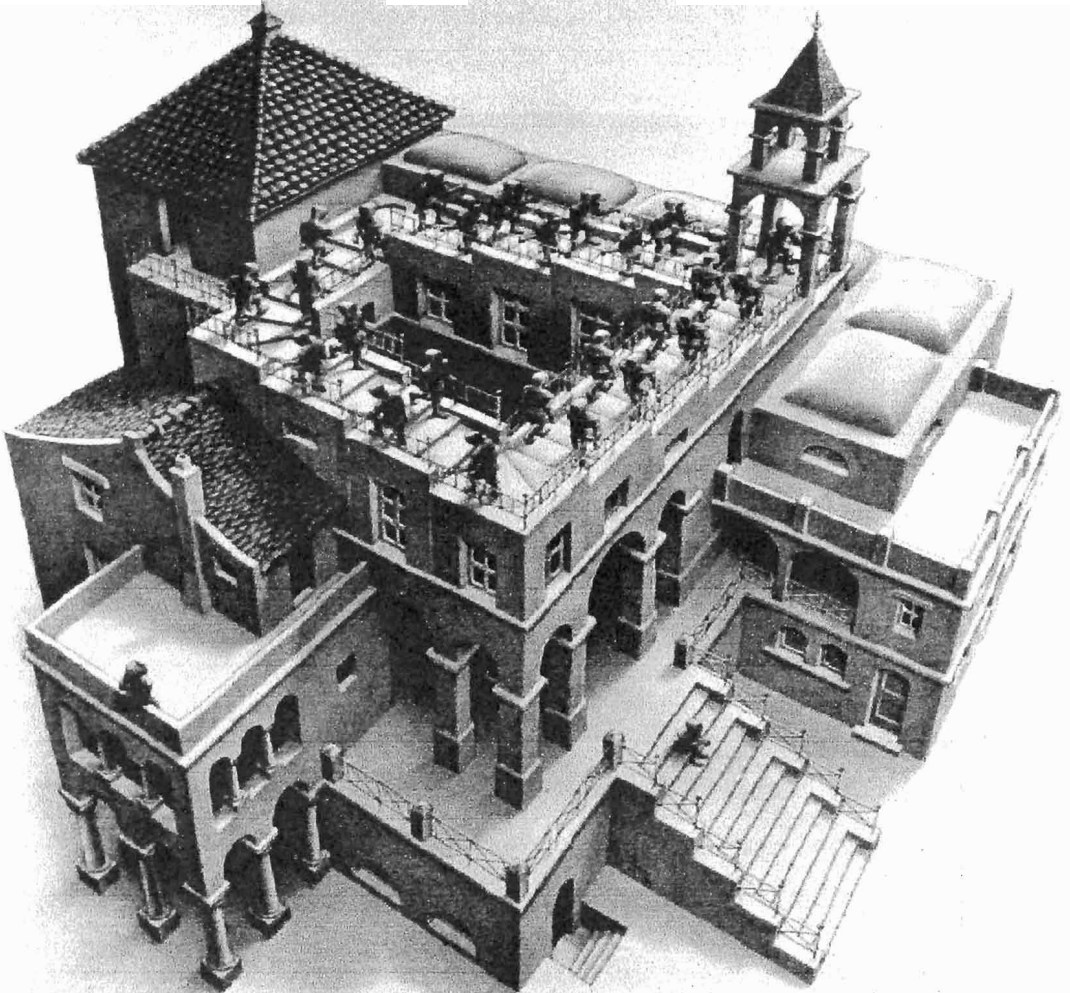


A



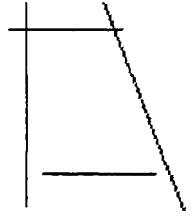
B

C. Never ending Stairs





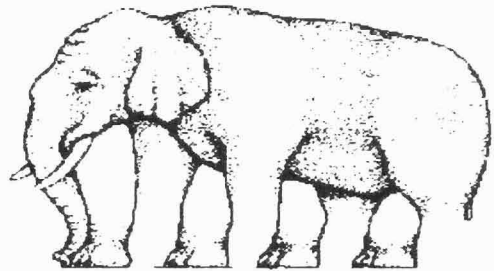
Man playing Sax or a face?



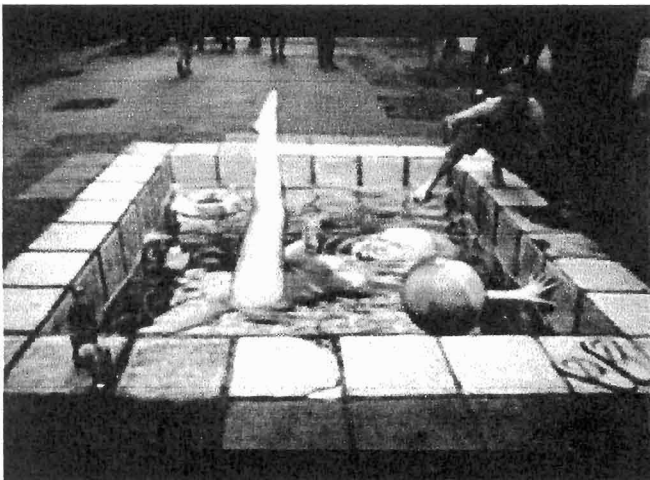
Are the lines equal length?



Read this out loud quickly.



How many legs does this elephant have?



Pavement artist in New York

