

DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE



✠ *Rt Rev Séamus Cunningham*
Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle



Dear Friend

I am writing to invite you to participate in your parish/partnership preparation programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

At World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro Pope Francis said to young people,

'The church needs you, your enthusiasm, your creativity and the joy that is so characteristic of you.'

You are a vital part of the life and mission of the Church within our diocese. I want to encourage you to prepare to receive the Holy Spirit in Confirmation so that, as Pope Francis says,

'You can be joyful witnesses of His love, courageous witnesses of His Gospel, carrying to this world a ray of His light'.

If you attend a Catholic school you will have developed your knowledge and understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation within your Religious Education lessons at the end of Year 8.

The parish/partnership preparation programme is an opportunity for you to discover the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life and to deepen your relationship with God as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Please be assured of my support and prayers.

+ Séamus

Bishop Séamus Cunningham

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