

Confirmation Connect: Parish Guide



Archdiocese of Dublin
THE OFFICE FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, spirit of love,
Fill our hearts with love.
Holy Spirit, spirit of peace
Make us instruments of your peace.
Holy Spirit, spirit of God,
Be our leader and guide.

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of the faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth Your Spirit
and they shall be created.
And You will renew the face of the earth.

O God, who has taught
the hearts of the faithful
by the light of the Holy Spirit,
grant us in the same spirit
to be truly wise
and ever to rejoice in His consolation,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Parish Guide Content

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What is Confirmation Connect?

Confirmation Connect is a Parish Support and Accompaniment Process for Journeying with Families preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is a flexible resource that can be used in-person, on zoom, or a mixture of both. The process is for existing and potential new Sacramental Teams.

The process is made up of 3 moments or Connections that take place across the year of preparation. All resources needed to journey with families are provided (videos, candidate journal, leaders guide, text for Rites, ongoing training and support of leaders), along with a guideline for when these Connections might take place in the year. The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place around the feast of Pentecost.

In each of the 3 Connections there is a video, 3 Catechetical Sessions and A Rite celebrated at Sunday Mass. The themes of each Connection are: Connection 1: Journey in Faith; Connection 2: Called in Faith; Connection 3 - Living in Faith.

Content of Connections

- Prayer to the Holy Spirit
- About Me

Connection 1 - Journey in Faith

- Video summary and worksheets
- Session 1 - *My Pledge & Promise*
- Session 2 - *Bringing Good News*
- Session 3 - *Being a Person of Faith*
- End of session notes and journal page
- Rite 1 text

Connection 2 - Called in Faith

- Video summary and worksheets
- Session 4 - *Called to be a Witness*
- Session 5 - *Called to be an Apostle*
- Session 6 - *Called to be Saints*
- End of session notes and journal page
- Rite 2 text

Connection 3 - Living in Faith

- Video summary and worksheets
- Session 7 - *The Spirit: Helper & Guide*
- Session 8 - *Inspired by the Holy Spirit*
- Session 9 - *A Spirit of Service*
- End of session notes and journal page
- Rite 3 text

Help for the Journey

- Confirmation Keywords
- Confirmation Name
- Confirmation Sponsor
- Rites 1-3 Handouts
- Extra Journal Pages



Click or Scan the QR Codes on each new section to bring you to additional resources (prayers, videos, music etc.) for that session on the Mission & Ministry Website.

Suggested Timeline 2023-2024

Connection 1 - Journey in Faith

- Video 1
- Sessions 1-3
- Rite 1

Suggested Time:

November/December

Rite could take place at Sunday Mass at the new Liturgical Year

Connection 2 - Called in Faith

- Video 2
- Sessions 4-6
- Rite 2

Suggested Time:

January/February

Rite could take place at Sunday Mass during Lent

Connection 3 - Living in Faith

- Video 3
- Sessions 7-9
- Rite 3

Suggested Time: **April/May**

Rite could take place at Sunday Mass before Pentecost/Confirmation



On-Going Animator Training & Support

The number of training sessions will depend on the number of those signed up. All training will take place on Zoom.

Training for Online Sacramental Registration

Week of Monday 18th September

Connection 1 Training & Check-In

Week of Monday 23rd October

Connection 2 Training & Check-In

Week of Monday 8th January

Connection 3 Training & Check-In

Week of Monday 18th March

connection with the community

- It is important for Confirmation to be visible in the church for both candidates and the Faith Community
- A suitable space (on the walls or a side chapel etc.) could be used to build up a *Confirmation Connect Corner* in the church
- This would be something that is added to and built up over time, especially as the three connections are celebrated over the year
- Some suggestions of items to add to the space are:
 - Red cloth/backing paper
 - Dates of celebrations
 - A printout of the prayers in each session
 - The titles of the Videos
 - An image of Pentecost
 - A copy of the Rite after it is celebrated at Mass
 - Candidates add their tweets from the activity (Session 2) to the space for members of the congregation to engage with
 - Research on Confirmation names
 - Get candidates to decorate their name, add it to the space and invite parishioners to take the name of a child and pray for them throughout the year
- This is suggestive and you are free to get creative with what you think should go in the space
- This can be shared and discussed at the ongoing support meetings
- Monthly reminders to parishioners to visit the *Confirmation Connect Corner*

Practical Points

- If you have large numbers receiving the Sacrament, it is recommended to hold the video and sessions online via Zoom. This would enable a smaller animators group to learn the process and lead the process
- If your numbers in the parish are small and you have the facilities, it is up to the parish to decide if they can hold in-person sessions
- On-going support and training is provided for animators throughout the year
- Who attends what?
 - Parents/Guardians and candidates would attend the video sessions
 - The block of 3 sessions is for the candidates
 - Rite in the church is for candidates and their families
- Video sessions are approx. 30-minute gathering
- Candidate sessions are approx. 60-minute gathering
- Journals and resources are all digital - it is up to parishes if they wish to provide a hard-copy of the journal. All resources are available from www.missionministry.ie
- The top of each session has a QR code. This can be scanned (on a hard copy) or clicked (on a digital copy) to access additional resources for that session

Before each Connection begins, all animators will be invited to a preparation Zoom meeting and all materials/supports for the Connection will be discussed e.g. videos, powerpoints etc.

If you are in a position to hold the sessions in person, you will need the following equipment:

Video Session:

- Screen
- Projector
- Leaders Guide
- Pens etc.

Candidate Session:

- Leaders Guide
- Candidate Guides
- Confirmation Team
- Pens etc.

Safeguarding Procedures

Safeguarding for all (children and leaders) is a vital practice that underpins all we do in the church. Best Safeguarding Practices means that all who engage in ministry with children are Garda Vetted and that children/families that we interact with have signed consent forms.

If your parish has large numbers celebrating Confirmation, we strongly encourage to hold your Confirmation Connect moments online via Zoom. You can read about the Diocese Zoom Policy by clicking [HERE](#).

If volunteers are not Garda Vetted, they must be vetted before ministering to children. You can begin the process by clicking [HERE](#) to access the Garda Vetting Form.

Parishes would need consent forms for children to participate in the Confirmation Connect Gatherings. This could be included in the registration form for Confirmation, or it could be a separate form.

The number of animators needed for the team will depend on whether the Confirmation Connect is taking place online or in person. This can be discussed depending on your parish's particular circumstances. We do encourage Zoom this year, and a smaller team of 4 animators would be sufficient.

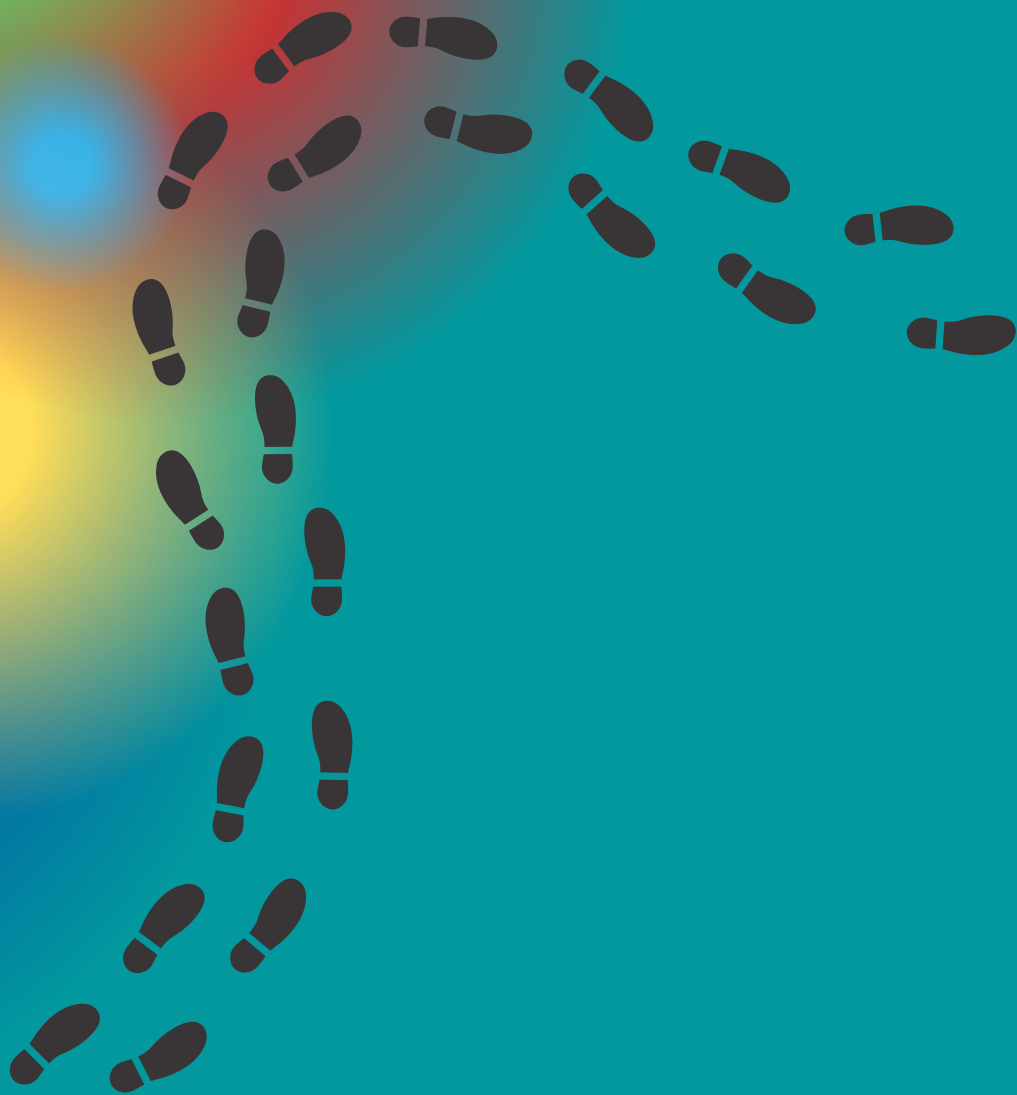
Important Dates

Below is a list of some important dates in the Liturgical calendar 2023-2024 which might help you in the parish to plan our your times of Connections:

- December 3rd - First Sunday of Advent
- January 21st - Sunday of the Word of God
- February 14th - Ash Wednesday
- February 18th - First Sunday of Lent
- March 31st - Easter Sunday
- April 21st - Fourth Sunday of Easter
- May 19th - Pentecost

Connection 1:

Journey in Faith



Rite 1:

Presentation of the Gospels



PURPOSE of this RITE

- To celebrate the gift of God's word to us
- To provide the candidates with a copy of the Gospels
- To pray that the candidates will grow in their love of scripture
- To affirm the candidates on this stage of their journey of faith
- To encourage parents to reflect with their children using scripture

PREPARATION

You will need:

- List of names of the families
- Name cards of the candidates for the priest
- One copy each of the Gospel for the liturgical year
- Service sheets for the congregation



SUGGESTED TIME of CELEBRATION

November before the season of Advent or to mark the new Liturgical Year at Sunday Mass

Rite 1:

Presentation of the Gospels

Presider: Children, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the name of all who believe in him and are here today, we welcome you to celebrate the gift of God's Word to us in the Scriptures.

I invite you to come forward and to stand in front of the altar so that we can present you with these precious words of life.

Each child is called forward by name

Candidates come forward and stand in front of the altar

PRESENTATION of the SCRIPTURES

Presider: Let us pray for these candidates that God will fill their hearts with love for the Scriptures they are about to receive.

Loving Father, bless these candidates
for Confirmation.
Through your Holy Spirit enlighten their minds
and open their hearts
to love and treasure the words of the Gospel.
Through reading and praying the Scriptures
may they come to know Jesus
and his love for them,
putting his words into practice in their lives.
We ask this through Christ our Lord



BLESSING of the GOSPEL BOOKS

Presider: We now ask God to bless these books of the Gospel.
May our candidates find in them the living word of God.
May these words of the Gospel enlighten their minds and fill their hearts with God's love.

Leader: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in the name of his Church here present, we are happy to invite our candidates to come forward to receive the book which contains the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The children come forward to receive a copy of the Gospel

The presider says the following words as he hands the Gospel to the child:

N.....(name of child), receive the Gospel,
the Good News of Jesus Christ, Son of God.

Candidate: Thanks be to God

INTERCESSIONS

PRESIDER: We pray now for our candidates that God's word will give them life:

PARENT 1: We pray that the book of the Gospel, which our candidates have received, may enlighten and inspire them to know, love and follow Jesus throughout their lives.
LORD HEAR US

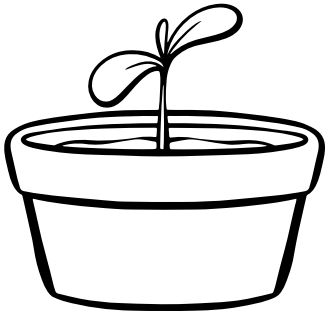
PARENT 2: We pray that they may learn to listen with their hearts to God speaking to them in the words of the Gospel.
LORD HEAR US

PARENT 3: We pray that God's word may be a living word that speaks to them every day of their lives.
LORD HEAR US

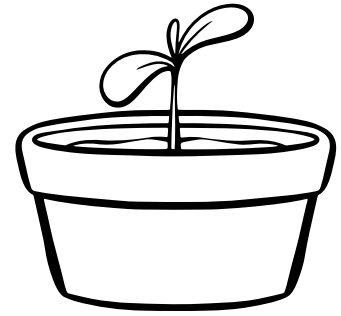
PRESIDER:
Lord, bless these children of light
who now receive your word.
May the word of God always live in their hearts
that they may bring your Good News to the world.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.



Rite 1 - Gospel



Matthew 13: 1-9



Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up.



Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.



Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'



CONNECTION 2:

CALLED IN FAITH



Rite 2:

Presentation of the Our Father



PURPOSE of this RITE

- To present the prayer tradition of the Church to candidates
- To provide the candidates with a copy of the Our Father
- To pray that the candidates will grow in their life of prayer
- To affirm the candidates on this stage of their journey of faith
- To encourage parents to pray regularly with their children

PREPARATION

You will need:

- List of names of the families
- Name cards of the candidates for the priest
- One copy each of the Our Father
- Service sheets for the congregation

SUGGESTED TIME of CELEBRATION

Between January and February at Sunday Mass

Rite 2:

Presentation of the Our Father



Presider: As Jesus taught his disciples to pray, the parents of these children have taught them to pray.

In this celebration today they will present them with the Lord's Prayer, a summary of how we should pray.

I now invite our candidates for Confirmation to come forward and stand, while we pray that each of them will be filled with a spirit of prayer.

*Each child is called forward by name
Candidates come forward and stand in front of the altar*

*The Presider lays hands on each candidate in turn
while the community prays in silence*

Presider: I invite our candidates to now stand around the altar to listen to the gospel reading where our Lord Jesus teaches his followers how to pray.

Candidates make their way to the altar and stand in a semi-circle to listen to the Gospel



A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

At that time Jesus said to his disciples:

'Say this when you pray:

Our Father who art in heaven
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.'

The children return to their seats and the presider explains the meaning and importance of the Lord's Prayer.

INTERCESSIONS

Then there follows prayers of intercession for the children led by their parents.

PARENT 1: Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name.
May these candidates to whom we have presented the Lord's Prayer come to live
this prayer, and pray it with simple, faithful trust.
LORD HEAR US

PARENT 2: Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We pray
that God's kingdom may grow daily in all our lives as we try to do what he wants.
LORD HEAR US

PARENT 3: Give us this day our daily bread.
We pray that these children may always turn to God in trusting faith and love for all
their needs, and that our brothers and sisters throughout the world may never lack
daily bread.
LORD HEAR US

PARENT 4: Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
We pray that we may love one another as Jesus loves us and that we may always
have hearts that are ready to forgive.
LORD HEAR US

PARENT 5: And lead us not into temptation.
We pray that our hearts will always be set on God and that we will always turn to him
for help in times of temptation.
LORD HEAR US

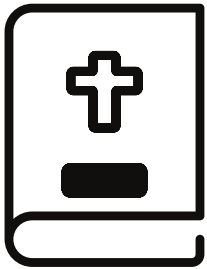
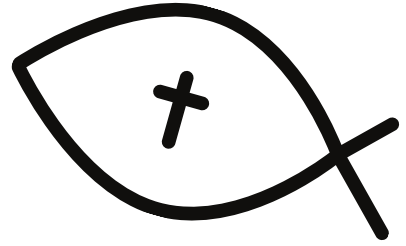
PRESIDER:
Father we thank you for the way Jesus taught us to pray.
We ask that these candidates whom we have presented with this prayer will love
and cherish it.
Through it may they come to know you as their loving Father and to worship you as
the one, true God.
May they always turn to you in their needs and seek from you in prayer the strength
to follow Jesus.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
AMEN.



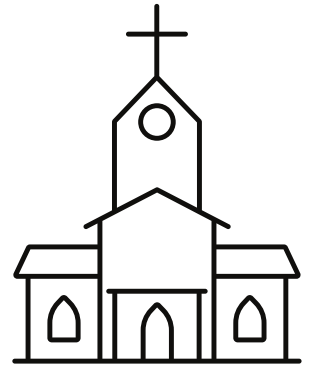
Rite 2 - Our Father



Our Father



Our Father,
Who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done



on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses

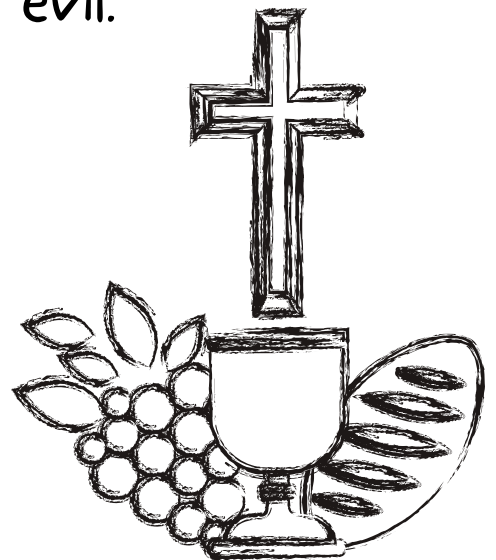
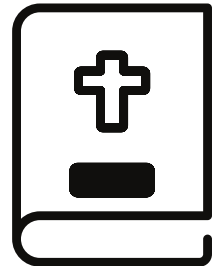
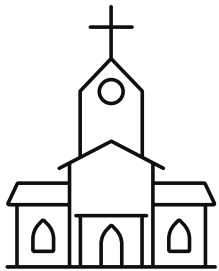
as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

Amen.



Connection 3: Living in Faith



Rite 3:

Presentation of the Creed



PURPOSE of this RITE

- To present the faith of the Church to candidates for their acceptance
- To provide the candidates with a copy of the Creed
- To pray that the candidates will grow in their love of our faith
- To affirm the candidates on this stage of their journey of faith
- To encourage parents to pass on the faith of the Church to their children

PREPARATION

You will need:

- List of names of the families
- Name cards of the candidates for the priest
- One copy each of the Creed
- Service sheets for the congregation

SUGGESTED TIME of CELEBRATION

Before the end of Lent at Sunday Mass



Rite 3:

Presentation of the Creed

Presider: Today we welcome our children who are preparing for Confirmation, and their parents and guardians.

We give thanks for the faith passed on to these children by their parents and guardians.

I now invite our candidates to come forward and to stand while we pray that they will grow strong in faith.....

Each child is called forward by name

Candidates come forward and stand in front of the altar

Presider:

My dear friends listen carefully to the words of that faith that we believe.

These words are few, but the mysteries they contain are great.

Receive them with a sincere heart and be faithful to them by your Christian way of life.

**THE APOSTLES CREED is now SUNG or RECITED by the
WHOLE ASSEMBLY**



Presider; Dear children we have just listened to the Creed which sums up what we believe in as Christians.

As you continue your final preparations for Confirmation I ask you to say your yes to all that we believe and invite you to stand around the altar.....

Do you believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Children: I do

**Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord,
Who was born of the Virgin Mary,
Was crucified, died, and was buried,
rose from the dead,
and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?**

Children: I do

**Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?**

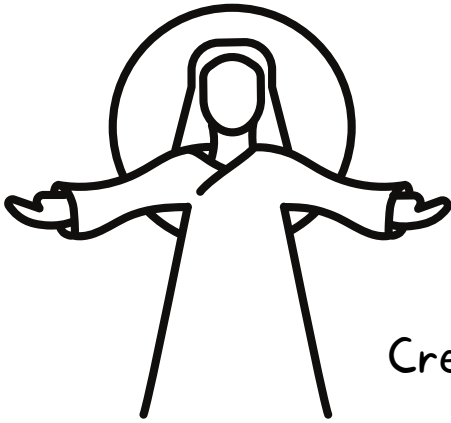
Children: I do

Presider:

Children, parents and catechists I invite you to repeat after me:
This is our Faith
This is the Faith of the Church
We are proud to profess it
In Christ Jesus our Lord.



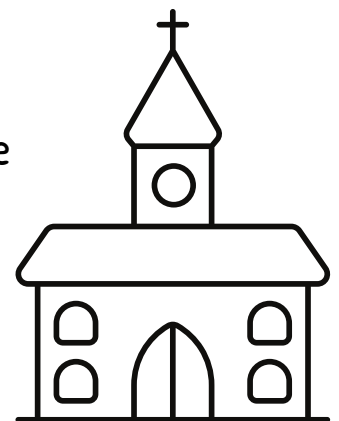
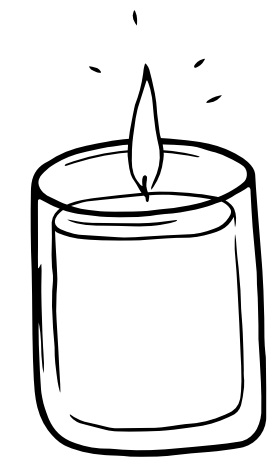
Rite 3 - Apostle's Creed



Apostle's Creed

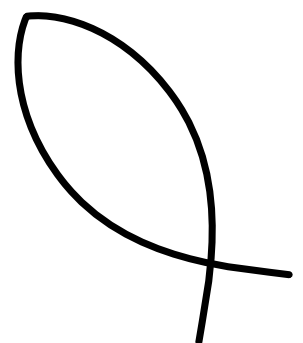


I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again
from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



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

Amen.





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