

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion if you do so in your own church. If you would prefer, please come forward and bow your head for a blessing. **Please do not intinct—it is forbidden by our bishops and dangerous for coeliacs.** Please follow the directions of the Sides-people.

Prayer after Communion

Good Shepherd, you have welcomed us at your table and have anointed us with the oil of gladness: may your goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our life, that we may dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the notices after which we sing the final hymn (NEH 394). After the Blessing and Dismissal the clergy and servers leave during the organ voluntary. The oils are carried in the procession to be distributed to the churches of the diocese. You are invited to remain in your seats for this final act of worship.

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**Come, let us follow where our Saviour trod,
Our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God.**

**Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.**

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.**

**Thy kingdom come, that earth's despair may cease
Beneath the shadow of its healing peace.**

**For thy blest cross which doth for us atone,
Creation's praises rise before thy throne.**

Words G.W. Kitchin (1827-1912) altd. Tune Crucifer
S.H. Nicholson (1875-1947)

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

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.

May God the... **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

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The Chrism Eucharist and the Renewal of Commitment to Ministry

For Northern France 1130h March 25th 2024

When Peter acknowledged Jesus as 'the Christ' (Mark 8.29), he was recognizing him as the 'Anointed One' of God: *Christos* in Greek, *Messiah* in Hebrew. The title that had once belonged to the anointed kings of Israel is now conferred on Jesus, who was anointed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at his baptism in the river Jordan (cf Acts 10.38). As Jesus received baptism at John's hands, his true identity was revealed:

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
prophet, priest and king supreme. (*Christopher Wordsworth*)

Our own baptism is the sacramental sign of our union with Christ, and of God's gift to us of his Holy Spirit, to make us God's children by adoption and grace, and to equip us for the share that all Christians have in Christ's own ministry. The New Testament speaks of this gift of the Holy Spirit as an anointing (1 John 2.20-27; 2 Corinthians 1.21-22). From an early date, it became customary to trace the sign of the cross in oil on the heads of candidates for baptism, and to anoint them again after baptism with the perfumed oil of chrism – a sign of incorporation into the prophetic, priestly and royal life of Jesus Christ. At the same time, the Letter of James urges its recipients to anoint the sick with oil (James 5.15), as a sign of the healing and forgiveness that are also given through the Holy Spirit (cf Mark 6.13).

These are the biblical roots of the ancient custom of using oils in the life of the Church, and of the three particular oils – of catechumens, of the sick, and of chrism – that are prepared in the Chrism Eucharist. In the course of Christian history, they have come to be used in many ways – especially, as in the Old Testament, for the setting apart of people and things for a special place in the life of the Church, for bishops and priests at their ordination, for kings and queens at their crowning, and for churches and altars at their consecration. There is a more recent custom, introduced first into the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Paul VI in the middle of the twentieth century, that the Chrism Eucharist is also an occasion for the renewal of commitment to ministry. As the priests gathered around their bishop on Maundy Thursday, to receive the oils to take back to their parishes, he suggested that they should renew their commitment to serve Christ.

This is appropriate on this day, when we remember that Christ consecrated himself to his Father's service and expressed his obedient self-gift in the institution of the Eucharist and in the agony of Gethsemane, and prayed for the unity of his disciples. It is now a widespread Anglican practice for deacons, Readers and authorized lay ministers to be associated with the bishop and priests in the renewal of commitment to ministry.

It is important to distinguish this renewal, which has to do with the commitment of authorized ministers (lay or ordained) to particular and defined ministries in the life of the Church, from the renewal of the commitment of all God's people to the royal and priestly ministry they have received in baptism. This second renewal, which is theologically prior to the first, properly takes place in the reaffirmation of baptismal promises at the Easter Liturgy

The President and preacher is the Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, The Right Reverend Dr Robert Innes. The setting of Gloria in excelsis is by Merbecke (NEH 542), the Sanctus and Agnus Dei are from the Missa Brevis by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (circa 1525—1594) The anthem during

Communion is **Ecce quam bonum** by William Byrd (c. 1539-1623). The choir is directed by Dr Peter Hicks and the organ played by Mr Malcolm Wisener. Before the service, the Chaplain of St George's, The Reverend Mark Osborne, will welcome the congregation.

The Gathering

We stand for the opening hymn (NEH 333) during which the Bishop and other Ministers enter.

**All my hope on God is founded, He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth, Only good and only true.
God alone, He alone, Calls my heart to be his own.**

**Pride of man and earthly glory, Sword and crown betray his trust;
What with care and toil he buildeth, Tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, Hour by hour, Is my temple and my tower.**

**God's great goodness aye endureth, Deep his wisdom, passing thought:
Splendour, light and life attend him, Beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore, From his store New-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Daily doth th'Almighty giver Bounteous gifts on us bestow;
His desire our soul delighteth, Pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand At his hand: Joy doth wait on his command.**

**Still from man to God eternal Sacrifice of praise be done;
High above all praises praising For the gift of Christ his Son:
Christ doth call, One and all; Ye who follow shall not fall.**

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Jesus Christ has made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father.
Glory and kingship be his for ever and ever.

Peace be with you.
And also with you.

The Bishop welcomes the people and invites them to confess their sins.

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:
**Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes early away.
Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Gloria (NEH 542)

Glory be to God on high and in earth peace, goodwill towards men. We praise thee we bless thee, we worship thee we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ: O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art the Most High in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Blessed are you, sovereign God and eternal Father, upholding by your grace all who hear your call. Under your Old Covenant priests and kings were anointed to serve you, and in the fullness of time you anointed your Son by the Holy Spirit to be the Christ, the Saviour and Servant of all. By the power of your Spirit may your blessing rest on those who are anointed with this chrism in your name; let it be for them a sign of joy and gladness as they share in the royal priesthood of the New Covenant and make known the kingdom of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit we lift our voices of thanks and praise.

Blessed be God, our strength and our salvation, now and for ever. Amen.

Eucharistic 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.

The celebrant praises God for his mighty acts in the Preface and the Choir sings the Sanctus.

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The prayer continues until the Proclamation of Faith :

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

At the end of the prayer we all respond Amen. We remain standing to pray the Lord's Prayer.

Lord's Prayer

**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. For
thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**

Breaking of the 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.

As we prepare for Holy Communion the Choir sings the Agnus Dei.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Giving of Communion

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Signs of peace may be exchanged. During the singing of the hymn (NEH 512), the oils are brought to the altar, and the bread and wine is prepared for the Eucharistic Prayer

**Blest by the sun, the olive tree, Brought clusters of fair fruit to birth,
Whose ripeness now we bring with prayer,
Lord Christ, redeemer of the earth.**

**Eternal King, look down and bless The oil your servants offer here,
And may it be a lively sign. Which all the powers of darkness fear.**

**From those washed in the sacred font Let Satan's influence depart,
And when this oil the brow shall seal, Transforming grace invade the heart.**

**Our wounded nature thus be healed, By your anointing grace, O Lord;
In men and women so renewed Shall God's own image be restored.**

**Lord Christ, the Father's only Son, Who took our flesh in Mary's womb,
Give light to your anointed ones,
And break the power of death's dark tomb.**

**So may this joyous Paschal feast, The time when saving grace is given,
Fill every Christian soul with praise,
And raise our minds from earth to heaven. Amen.**

Prayer over the oils

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.

The oil for the anointing of the sick and dying is presented.

Blessed are you, sovereign God, gentle and merciful, creator of heaven and earth. Your Word brought light out of darkness, and daily your Spirit renews the face of the earth. Your anointed Son brought healing to those in weakness and distress. He broke the power of evil and set us free from sin and death that we might praise your name for ever. By the power of your Spirit may your blessing rest on those who are anointed with this oil in your name; may they be made whole in body, mind and spirit, restored in your image, renewed in your love, and serve you as sons and daughters in your kingdom. **Blessed be God for ever.**

The oil for the signing with the cross at baptism is presented.

Blessed are you, sovereign God, the protector of all who believe in you. Your anointed Son overcame the powers of evil when he was lifted high upon the cross. By the power of your Spirit may your blessing rest on those who are anointed with this oil in your name; as they come to the waters of baptism, may it be for them a sign of your defence in their fight against sin, the world and the devil, and bring them to share in Christ's victory. **Blessed be God for ever.**

The oil of chrism is presented.

Heavenly Father, who anointed your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit and with power to bring to the world the blessings of your kingdom: anoint your Church with the same Holy Spirit, that we who share in his suffering and his victory may bear witness to the gospel of salvation; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading : 1 Samuel 16.1-13a

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 89.19-30

*For the Lord is our defence * the Holy One of Israel is our King. Thou spakest sometime in visions unto thy saints, and saidst * I have laid help upon one that is mighty; I have exalted one chosen out of the people. I have found David my servant * with my holy oil have I anointed him. My hand shall hold him fast * and my arm shall strengthen him. The enemy shall not be able to do him violence * the son of wickedness shall not hurt him. I will smite down his foes before his face * and plague them that hate him. My truth also and my mercy shall be with him * and in my Name shall his horn be exalted. I will set his dominion also in the sea * and his right hand in the floods. He shall call me, Thou art my Father * my God, and my strong salvation. And I will make him my first-born * higher than the kings of the earth. My mercy will I keep for him for evermore * and my covenant shall stand fast with him. His seed also will I make to endure for ever * and his throne as the days of heaven.*

Second Reading : 2 Corinthians 3.17-4.12

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gradual hymn.

**There in God's garden stands the Tree of wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations.
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion, Tree of all beauty.**

**Its name is Jesus, name that says, 'Our Saviour!'
There on its branches see the scars of suffering;
see where the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its life-blood.**

**Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage;
our greed has starved it; our despite has choked it.
Yet look, it lives! Its grief has not destroyed it, nor fire consumed it.**

**See how its branches reach to us in welcome;
hear what the voice says, 'Come to me, ye weary!
Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow. I will give blessing.'**

**All heaven is singing, 'Thanks to Christ, whose Passion
offers in mercy healing, strength and pardon.
Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!' Amen! My Master!**

Words Erik Routley (1917-82)
Based on the Hungarian of
Király Imre von Pécselyi (1590-1641)

Tune Diva Servatrix
Bayeux Antiphoner (1739)

Gospel : Luke 22.24-30

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

This the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Please be seated for the sermon by the Rt Rev'd Robert Innes, Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe.

The Renewal of Commitment to Ministry

Brothers and sisters, before we offer to God the renewal of our commitment to ministry in his Church, and consecrate the oils that will be used throughout our diocesan family as a sign of salvation and of the Spirit's indwelling power, let us, both priests and people, first recall with gratitude all those whom we here represent — the great dispersal of the communities of the diocese across a continent, and some beyond — especially those who are sick, those preparing for baptism and confirmation, and those who are ready to be ordained to ministry as deacons and priests. May God unite our hearts and prayers with theirs by the same Spirit whose presence we invoke.

God our loving Father, pour out afresh upon our brothers and sisters in this diocese the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Open our ears to hear your Word, open our hearts to you in prayer, that we may receive with ever deeper faith the Bread of Life and be signs of your presence to the world of today. Hear our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

My brothers and sisters, at his Last Supper, our Lord Jesus Christ gave his disciples a new commandment, that they should love one another, and he prayed that they might be one. He gave them an everlasting sign of his own love, in the sacrament of bread and wine. He consecrated himself to his Father's service, to be the high priest of the New Covenant. I invite you now to dedicate yourselves afresh to his service, as stewards of the mysteries of God, and ministers of his grace.

The Bishop addresses the lay ministers:

When you were commissioned, you undertook to be faithful in prayer, and by word and example to minister to those for whom Christ died. Will you do all that is in your power to witness to God's love for his people?

By the help of God, I will.

The Bishop addresses the deacon:

At your ordination as a deacon, you received the yoke of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. Will you continue faithfully in this ministry, to build up God's people in his truth and serve them in his name?

By the help of God, I will.

The Bishop addresses the priests:

At your ordination to the priesthood, you took authority to watch over and care for God's people, to absolve and bless them in his name, to proclaim the gospel of salvation, and to minister the sacraments of his New Covenant. Will you continue as faithful stewards of the mysteries of God, preaching the gospel of Christ and ministering his holy sacraments?

By the help of God, I will.

A lay person addresses the Bishop:

At your ordination as bishop you received the gift of the Spirit, that you might lead the Church in mission, and send out ministers in Christ's name; that you might promote its unity, uphold its discipline, and guard its faith; and that you might teach and govern the people committed to your charge. Will you continue faithfully in this ministry, watching over Christ's own flock, and building them up in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace?

By the help of God, I will.

A lay person addresses all the ministers:

May the God of peace sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and he will accomplish it.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

The people stand, and the Bishop addresses them:

My brothers and sisters, pray for all who minister, that they may be constant in prayer and steadfast in faith, and serve your people with joy.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Pray for your deacons, that the Lord may pour upon them the riches of his grace. Pray that he who has called them to his service may make them worthy of his calling.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Pray for your priests. Ask the Lord to bless them with the fullness of his love, that they may be faithful ministers of his word and sacrament, and lead his people in the way of salvation.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Pray for your bishops, that despite our unworthiness we may be faithful to the great trust that has been handed to us. Pray that we may become more like our Good Shepherd and great High Priest, the teacher and servant of us all, and so become more and more a sign of Christ's loving presence among you.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Pray for the families of those who minister, for their homes, and for all with whom they share their lives.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

May the Lord in his love keep us ever close to him, and may he bring us all to the fullness of eternal life. **Amen.**