

THE ORDINATION OR CONSECRATION OF A BISHOP

The Gathering of God's People

At the entry of the ministers a hymn, a canticle, or a psalm may be sung.

The archbishop says

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

We are the body of Christ.

By the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:

One God and Father of all.

Saint Paul wrote:

Just as in a single human body there are many limbs and organs, all with different functions, so we who are united with Christ, though many, form one body, and belong to one another as its limbs and organs. We have gifts allotted to each of us by God's grace. *Romans 12: 5,6 (REB)*

Today, giving thanks for the variety of gifts and ministries that God has bestowed on the Church we have come together to admit to the order of bishops one whom we believe God has chosen for this particular ministry within the body, seeking by prayer with the laying on of hands the bestowal of the Holy Spirit for that office and work. In doing so we are maintaining the historic threefold ministry of bishops, priest or presbyters, and deacons which this Church has received.

The bishop-elect is presented by sponsors to the archbishop, with the words:

Archbishop , we present , and believe him to be called and ready to be ordained bishop in the Church of God.

The archbishop says to the bishop-elect

Do you believe, so far as you know your heart, that God has called you to the office and work of a bishop in his Church?

Answer **I believe that God has called me.**

Archbishop

Let us pray

Silence

God our Father, Lord of all the world,
we thank you that through your Son
you have called us into the fellowship of your universal Church.
Hear our prayer for your faithful people
that in their vocation and ministry
they may be instruments of your love,
and give to this your servant now to be ordained
the needful gifts of grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

THE FIRST READING

Numbers 27: 15-20,22,23

THE PSALM

Psalms 119: 165-174

THE SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4: 1-10

A canticle, hymn or anthem may be sung.

THE GOSPEL READING

John 21: 15-17

The reading is introduced with the following words:

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Saint John, chapter twenty-one beginning at verse fifteen.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

And concludes with

This is the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

Mindful of our baptism we proclaim the faith of the universal church:

We believe ... (*page 205*)

The Rite of Ordination

THE PRESENTATION

The archbishop says

Let the authority for the ordination be read.

The Provincial Registrar reads the certificate of election and the certificate of the approval of the House of Bishops.

The bishop-elect makes the Declaration of Canonical Obedience:

In the name of God. Amen.

I,, chosen bishop of the Church and See of solemnly promise all due reverence and canonical obedience to the archbishop of and to his successors.

THE DECLARATIONS

The bishop-elect stands before the archbishop, and the people sit.

The archbishop says

Bishops are called to lead in serving and caring for the people of God and to work with them in the oversight of the Church. As chief pastors they share with their fellow bishops a special responsibility to maintain and further the unity of the Church, to uphold its discipline, to guard its faith and to promote its mission throughout the world. It is their duty to watch over and pray for all those committed to their charge, and to teach and govern them after the example of the apostles, speaking in the name of God and interpreting the gospel of Christ. They are to know their people and be known by them. They are to ordain and to send new ministers, guiding those who serve with them and enabling them to fulfil their ministry.

They are to baptize and confirm, to preside at the Holy Communion, and to lead the offering of prayer and praise. They are to be merciful, but with firmness, and to minister discipline, but with mercy. They are to have special care for the sick and for the outcast and needy; and to those who turn to God they are to declare the forgiveness of sins.

In order that we may know your mind and purpose, and that you may be strengthened in your resolve to fulfil your ministry, you must make the declarations we now put to you.

Do you believe and accept the holy Scriptures as revealing all things necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?

Answer **I do.**

Do you believe and accept the doctrine of the Christian faith as the Church of Ireland has received it?

Answer **I do.**

In your ministry will you expound the Scriptures and teach that doctrine?

Answer **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you guard the faith, unity and discipline of the Church?

Answer **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you be faithful in ordaining deacons and priests and in commissioning readers, and will you sustain them in their ministry?

Answer **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you encourage all baptized people in their gifts and ministries and support them by your prayers?

Answer **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you be faithful in visiting the sick, in caring for the poor and needy, and in helping the oppressed?

Answer **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading holy Scripture, and in such studies that will deepen your faith and fit you to uphold the truth of the Gospel against error?

Answer **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you strive to fashion your own life and your family relationships according to the way of Christ?

Answer **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you promote unity, peace, and love among all Christian people, and especially among those whom you serve?

Answer **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you then be a faithful witness to Christ to those among whom you live, and lead your people to obey our Saviour's command to make disciples of all nations?

Answer **By the help of God, I will.**

The archbishop presents the bishop-elect to the people, and says

You have heard the testimony of those who present to be consecrated bishop, and also his own declarations before you. Those who have authority to do so have chosen him as a person of godly life and sound learning.

Is it therefore your will that he should be ordained?

Answer **It is.**

Will you uphold in his ministry?

Answer **We will.**

PRAYERS

Archbishop

Because none of us can bear the weight of this ministry in our own strength, but only by the grace and power of God, let us pray earnestly for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on

Let us pray also that God will each day enlarge and enlighten his understanding of the Scriptures, so that he may grow stronger and more mature in his ministry, as he fashions his life and the lives of his people on the word of God.

The archbishop or some other person leads the prayers for the bishop-elect and for the ministry of the whole Church.

An Ordination Litany (page 585) should be used.

Silence is kept.

The Veni Creator Spiritus (page 536) is sung, kneeling.

THE ORDINATION PRAYER
WITH THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

The archbishop stands with the bishops who assist; the people stand.

The bishop-elect kneels before the archbishop, who says

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
Who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We praise and glorify you, almighty Father,
because, in your infinite love,
you have formed throughout the world
a holy people for your own possession,
a royal priesthood, a universal Church.

We praise and glorify you
because you have given us your only Son Jesus Christ,
the image of your eternal and invisible glory,
the firstborn of all creation,
to be the Apostle and High Priest of our faith;
and the Shepherd of our souls.

We praise and glorify you
that by his death he has overcome death;
and that, having ascended into heaven,
he has poured out gifts abundantly
to equip your people for the work of ministry
and the building up of his body.

And now we give you thanks
that you have called *this your servant*,
whom we ordain in your name
to share this ministry entrusted to your Church.

*Here the archbishop and other bishops lay their hands on the head of the bishop-elect as
the archbishop says*

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon your servant
for the office and work of a bishop in your Church.

The archbishop then continues

Give to *this your servant* grace and power
which you gave to your apostles,
to lead those committed to *his* charge in proclaiming the gospel of salvation.
Through *him* increase your Church, renew its ministry,
and unite its members in a holy fellowship of truth and love.
Enable *him* as a true shepherd to feed and govern your flock,
to be wise as a teacher,
and steadfast as a guardian of the faith and sacraments of your Church.
Guide and direct *him* in presiding at the worship of your people.
Give *him* humility, to use *his* authority to heal, not to hurt;
to build up, not to destroy.
Defend *him* from all evil, that as a ruler over your household
and an ambassador for Christ *he* may stand before you blameless,
and finally, with all your servants, enter your eternal joy.
Accept our prayers, most merciful Father,
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and your Holy Spirit,
belong glory and honour, worship and praise,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

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Or

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

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It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We praise and glorify you, almighty Father,
because in your infinite love
you have formed throughout the world
a holy people for your own possession,
a royal priesthood, a universal Church.

Glory to you, Lord.

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because you have given us your only Son Jesus Christ,
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and unite its members in a holy fellowship of truth and love.

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to be wise as a teacher,
and steadfast as a guardian of the faith and sacraments of your Church.

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and an ambassador for Christ *he* may stand before you blameless,
and finally, with all your servants, enter your eternal joy.

Pour out your Spirit, Lord.

Accept our prayers, most merciful Father,
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and your Holy Spirit,
belong glory and honour, worship and praise,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The newly-ordained bishop is vested with the episcopal habit if this has not already been done.

The archbishop gives the bible to the bishop, saying
Receive this Book; here are words of eternal life.
Take them for your guide, and declare them to the world.

Archbishop

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I present to you . . . , Bishop in the Church of God.

The newly-consecrated bishop may be welcomed.

THE PEACE

The archbishop introduces the Peace with these or other suitable words:

Jesus said, A new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another:
even as I have loved you, that you love one another.

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

It is appropriate that the congregation share with one another a sign of peace.

This may be introduced with the words:

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Celebrating at the Lord's Table

PROPER PREFACE

Within the royal priesthood of your Church
you ordain ministers to proclaim your word,
to care for your people
and to celebrate the sacraments of the new covenant:

Going Out as God's People

After the Great Silence a hymn may be sung.

The archbishop says

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
you have chosen and consecrated
to be a shepherd and guardian of your flock,
and given him the will to undertake these things:
Give him also the strength to perform them,
that you may complete the work which you have begun in him;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All say

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the spiritual food
of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The archbishop says

Almighty God,
stir up in you the gifts of his grace,
sustain each one of you in your ministry;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The newly-consecrated bishop stands before the archbishop.

The archbishop gives the pastoral staff to the new bishop, saying

Keep watch over the flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you shepherd.
Encourage the faithful, restore the lost, build up the body of Christ;
that when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, you may receive the unfading crown of glory.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

The new bishop departs, carrying the bible and pastoral staff, accompanied by the diocesan representatives.