

Service of Blessing Holy Oils

Words to be said are in this style: **All:** say these words.

Instructions are in italics.

This service is a part of the Maundy Thursday service, but may be used separately. It may only be conducted by bishops. Mass is celebrated with the newly consecrated oils present on or near the altar. It is to be preferred if all the priests of the bishops' diocese can be present.

Three suitable containers with screw-top or seal-able lids are filled with pure virgin Olive Oil. Peppermint Oil, Sandalwood Oil and Friars Balsam need to be made ready. Suitable alternative oils may be used if preferred, although Friars Balsam is essential. Olive Oil should always be used for the base oil. The smaller containers to receive the blessed oils and consecrated Chrism should be marked according to the oils they will receive. The ingredients and containers are placed ready on a table or side altar. The concelebrating priests stand with the bishop who faces them during this service.

Bishop: Let us as brothers and sisters in Christ, and as clergy of the Old Catholic Apostolic Church, come together to bless and consecrate these Holy Oils.

Blessing of the Oil of the Sick

The bishop adds Peppermint oil to the olive oil in the container which will make the Oil for the Sick, seals the lid and shakes or blends the ingredients and with hands extended over the oils then says:

Bishop: O God, Father of all consolation, who willed to heal the infirmities of the weak through your Son, listen favourably to our prayer of faith: send forth from the heavens, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, upon this oil in all its richness, which you have graciously brought forth from the verdant tree to restore the body, so that by your holy blessing + everyone anointed with this oil as a safeguard for body, soul, and spirit may be freed from all pain, all infirmity, and all sickness. May your holy oil, O Lord, be blessed by you for our sake in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Blessing of the Oil of Catechumens

The bishop adds Sandalwood oil to the olive oil in the container which will make the Oil of Catechumens, seals the lid and shakes or blends the ingredients and then with hands extended over the oils says:

Bishop: O God, strength and protection of your people, who have made the oil you created a sign of strength, graciously bless + this oil, and grant courage to the catechumens who will be anointed with it, so that, receiving divine wisdom and

power, they may understand more deeply the Gospel of your Christ, they may undertake with a generous heart the labours of the Christian life, and, made worthy of adoption as your sons and daughters, they may rejoice to be born anew and to live in your Church. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Consecration of the Chrism

The bishop pours the balsam and Sandalwood into the Olive oil and mixes the chrism in silence, unless this was done beforehand and then sings or says the invitation:

Bishop: Let us pray, dear brothers and sisters, to God the almighty Father, that he bless and sanctify this oil; may those who are signed with it outwardly be inwardly anointed and made worthy of divine redemption.

Then the bishop breathes over the open vessel of chrism and with hands extended, says the prayer of consecration.

Bishop: O God, author of all growth and spiritual progress, receive in your goodness the grateful homage that the Church joyfully offers to you through our voice. For in the beginning you commanded the earth to bring forth fruit-bearing trees, among which olive trees would arise as providers of this most rich oil, so that their fruit might serve for sacred Chrism.

Bishop: In the spirit of prophecy, David foresaw the sacraments of your grace and sang of the oil that would gladden our faces. After the world's offences were washed away by the flood, a dove announced the restoration of peace on earth with the olive branch, foreshadowing the gift to come. In the last days all this has been clearly revealed: when every offence is removed through the waters of Baptism, the anointing with this oil makes our lives gracious and whole.

You also commanded your servant Moses to make his brother Aaron a priest, by pouring this oil upon him after he had been washed in water.

Still greater dignity was added to this when your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, insisted that he be washed by John in the waters of the Jordan: you sent the Holy Spirit from on high in the likeness of a dove; you declared by the witness of the voice that followed, that you were well pleased in him, your Only Begotten Son; and you were seen to confirm clearly what the prophet David had foretold in song, that Christ would be anointed with the oil of gladness above his companions.

All the celebrants extend their right hands toward the chrism, without saying anything, until the end of the prayer. The Bishop continues:

Bishop: Therefore we beseech you, Lord: be pleased to sanctify with your + blessing this oil in its richness, and to pour into it the strength of the Holy Spirit, with the powerful working of your Christ. From his holy name it has received the name of Chrism, and with it you have anointed your priests, prophets, kings, and martyrs.

May you confirm the Chrism you have created as a sacred sign of perfect salvation and life for those to be made new in the spiritual waters of Baptism.

May those formed into a temple of your majesty by the holiness infused through this anointing and by the cleansing of the stain of their first birth be made fragrant with the innocence of a life pleasing to you.

May those anointed with royal, priestly, and prophetic dignity be clothed with the garment of an incorruptible gift in keeping with the Sacrament you have established.

May this oil be the Chrism of salvation for those born again of water and the Holy Spirit, and may it help them to be partakers of eternal life and sharers of heavenly glory. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Prayers of Blessing

The bishop or another says the following prayer with hands outstretched and may pour oils and Chrism into the containers that the priests will take away with them back to their parishes or ministries.

Bishop or priest: Be pleased, O Lord to bless, heal and sanctify those whose lives will be touched by these oils and this Chrism. Guard and keep safe these oils during their transport away from here with the priests, and make each one of us a guardian of your healing and sanctifying grace, in Jesus Christ Our Lord.

All: Amen.

Mass is now celebrated to the END of service

Please pray for yourselves, the parishes or ministries in your care and the Old Catholic Apostolic Church, and for those who will be touched by this Chrism and the Holy Oils.