

Ordination of Priests

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

Instructions are in italics.

This service is used along with the appropriate part(s) of the Holy Eucharist.

Where the candidates bring candles forward, lighted tea-candles in suitable holders are deemed safest.

The newly ordained priest will be clothed in a chasuble at the appropriate moment in this service: a suitable hanger close to the altar, but in a secluded part of the chancel is required. A credence table is required nearby to carry the Oil of Catecumens, linen strip, wine, water & Hosts. The chalice & paten for presentation to the new priest should be placed upon the altar before the service commences.

The bishop will require a crozier bearer, and this is best suited to someone in minor orders. A second assistant (server) is required to fetch from the credence, and adjust furniture during the ordination service, this is also best suited to someone in minor orders.

The Collect

Bishop: Almighty, everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole of the church is made holy and governed, pour forth your sanctifying grace into the hearts of this your servant/these your servants, who is/are about to be numbered among the priests of your church, that with a pure heart and an open mind she/he/they may faithfully receive your blessing from on high; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Epistle

The bishop will invite someone to read the Epistle.

The Epistle is read: 1Peter1 v13 – 19.

A Collect for Peace

Bishop: Teach us, O Lord, to see your life in everything and in all the peoples of the earth and so guide the nations into the understanding of your laws that peace and goodwill may reign upon earth; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Any other collect for the day may also be read.

The collects being ended, the bishop takes a seat upon a faldstool before the altar. All are seated, the ordinands come forward bearing lighted candles and a priest appointed for the purpose presents them to the bishop, saying:

Proposer: Right Reverend Father, our holy mother the church catholic prays that you will ordain this (these) deacon(s) to the charge of the priesthood.

Bishop: Do you know them to be worthy?

Proposer: As far as human frailty allows me to judge, I do both know and attest that they are worthy of the charge of this office.

The ordinands take a step forward, their candles are taken from them and put on the altar. All are seated.

Bishop: Dearly beloved, as both the captain of a ship and the passengers it carries have equal cause for security or for fear; those whose interests are in common need to be of one mind. It was not without purpose that the Fathers decreed that the people should be consulted about the election of those who are to be employed in the service of the altar, for what is known to many concerning the life and conversation of those who are presented, may often be known to a few, and all will necessarily observe a more ready obedience to one when ordained, when they have signified their assent. If then, anyone knows of any reason or cause why these persons should not be raised to the priesthood, then in the name of God and for the benefit of his church, let them come forward boldly and speak; however, let anyone who does so be mindful of their own estate and condition.

After a pause, then addressing the ordinands:

Bishop: Dearly beloved (son/daughter/sister/brother) it is now our part solemnly and for the last time, before the irrevocable act shall be accomplished which shall lay upon you the sweet but heavy burden of the priesthood, to charge you how great is the dignity and responsibility of this office and how weighty the duties to be performed are. It is for the priest to offer sacrifice, to bless, to preside, to loose and to bind, to anoint, to preach and to baptize.

Bishop: So, dearly beloved, the award of our fellow's consent has chosen that you may be ordained to this office as our helper(s), after solemn consideration only and with great awe is so sublime an office to be approached and great indeed must be the care with which we determine those that are chosen to represent our Blessed Lord and to preside in his church; commend themselves by great wisdom, by worthiness of life and the persevering practice of justice and truth. Do you, then, dearly beloved keep these things in remembrance and let the fruit thereof be seen in your walk and conversation, in chaste and holy integrity of life, in continually abounding in all manner of good works. Strive without ceasing to increase within yourselves the perfection of that heavenly love that, having your hearts filled with the love of God and of man, you may be almoners of Christ's blessing and bearers of his love to the hearts of mankind. Never forget how great a privilege is yours to bring the little ones to Him through the gateway of baptism and to lift the heavy burden of the sorrow and sin of the world by the grace of absolution. Consider attentively to what you do; imitate those things which in the church of God it is your duty to handle and to transact. And as you will now be called upon to offer the holy sacrifice before the Throne of God and to celebrate the sacred mysteries of the Lord's love, be earnest in ridding your members of all their imperfections. Your duty is to offer to God the sweet incense of prayer and adoration, let your teaching be a spiritual remedy

for God's people; let your words of blessing and consolation be their help and strength; let the sweet savour of your life be a fragrance in the church of God.

So both by word and deed may you fashion the temple of God, so that neither shall we appear blameworthy before the Lord, who in his name we shall advance you, nor you being advanced, but rather we may find acceptance and abundant recompense for this day's act, which of his infinite goodness and loving-kindness may he grant us.

The ordinand(s) rise.

Bishop: Will you therefore strive to use worthily the powers entrusted to you?

Ordinand: I will.

Bishop: The Lord keep you in all these things, well beloved brother/sister and strengthen you in all goodness.

The bishop rises and addresses those present as follows:

Bishop: Let us pray, dearest faithful, that almighty God, in his great lovingkindness and watchful care over his church, may bestow a plentiful grace on this deacon/ these deacons, now about to be raised to the order of the priesthood.

All sing the following litany, during which the ordinands lie prostrate:

The Litany

All: God the Father, seen of none,
God the co-eternal Son,
God the Spirit, with them One;
Hear us Holy Trinity.

God eternal, mighty King,
Unto You our love we bring,
Through the world Your praises ring;
We are Yours O Trinity.

Christ the Lord of life and light,
Ruler of the starry height;
Fount of glory infinite;
You we worship, Master.

Mighty Lord we hail you here,
Recognize your presence dear,
Feel and know that you are near,
Keeping thus your promise.

Though your face we cannot see,
As of old of Galilee,
Strong in faith we you,
Ever-present Master.

From our fathers we have heard,
Of the gift your hand conferred,
We have proved the Holy Word;
Be that gift outpoured.

Though your form from earth has gone,
Your apostles handed on,
Sacramental benison;
Be that blessing with us.

We this power would now convey,
Strengthen then our hands we pray,
Pour your might through us today,
Hear us Holy Master.

Monarch at your feet we kneel,
For your servant(s) we appeal,
Fill his/her heart with holy zeal,
In your service, Master.

Lord of holy church the head,
Mystic power upon him/her shed,
By your love may he/she be led;
Hear us Holy Master.

Link in mystic bond with you
This your deacon may he/she be,
From the world and self set free;
By your power O Master.

May he/she stand before your face,
Filled with love and heavenly grace,
Grant him/her with the saints a place;
Near you Lord and Master.

The bishop takes his crozier in his left hand; holds it above the prostrate ordinand and says or sings alone:

Bishop: We beseech you hear our prayer,
Bless + your servant prostrate there,
Hold him/her in your loving care;
Hear us Holy Trinity.

Hear your servants as they pray,
Help this chosen one today,
Bless+ and + hallow him/her for aye;
Hear us Holy Trinity.

Pour your loving-kindness great,
On your chosen candidate,
Bless + Him/her, + Hallow, + Consecrate;
Hear us Holy Trinity.

The bishop and clergy kneel and everyone sings:

All: God the Father, seen of none,
God the co-eternal Son,
God the Spirit, with them one;
We are yours O Trinity.

The bishop, and the people rise and are again seated. The ordinands kneel before the bishop who, with hands extended towards them says the following prayer:

Bishop: O Lord Christ, the fountain of all goodness, who by the operation of the Holy Spirit has appointed various orders in your church and for its greater enrichment and perfecting does pour down gifts abundantly upon mankind, we pray that you will + open to your heavenly grace the hearts and minds of these your servants who are about to be numbered among the priests of your church that through them your power may flow down for the service of your people. May their hands be strong to achieve, may wisdom guide and direct their lives, may the beauty of holiness sanctify them and shed a spiritual fragrance about their path, so that in all their works begun, continued and ended in You, they may show the abundance of your power and glorify your Holy Name O great King of love; to you be praise and adoration from mankind and the angel host. Amen.

In silence the bishop lays both hands on the head of each ordinand. The same is done after him successively by all priests present. When this is over, both the bishop and priests, having their right hands extended towards the ordinands, the bishop says:

Bishop: O Lord Christ, whose strength is in the silence, grant that this servant (these servants) who now join with You in the holy bond of the priesthood; may from this moment forward minister faithfully of the priestly power to those who ask in Your name. Amen.

Bishop: Let us pray dearest brothers and sisters, that almighty God may multiply the gifts of The Spirit in this servant (these servants) for the work of the priesthood.

All kneel while the Veni Creator is sung.

Veni Creator

All: Come, thou Creator Spirit blessed,
And in our souls take up thy rest;
Come with thy grace and heavenly aid,
To fill the hearts which thou hast made.

Great Paraclete, to thee we cry,
O highest gift of God most high;
O living fount, O fire, O love
And sweet anointing from above.

Thou in thy sevenfold gift art known;
Thee, finger of God's hand, we own;
The promise of the Father, thou
Who dost the tongue with power endow.

Kindle our senses from above
And make our hearts o'erflow with love;
With patience firm and virtue high
The weakness of our flesh supply.

Far let us drive our tempting foe
And thine abiding peace bestow;
So shall we not, with thee for guide,
Turn from the path of life aside.

O may thy grace on us bestow
The Father and the Son to know
And thee, through endless time confessed,
Of both eternal Spirit blessed.

All glory while the ages run
Be to the Father and the Son,
Who gave us life; the same to thee,
O Holy Ghost, eternally.
Amen.

The bishop rises and imposes both hands upon the head of each ordinand, saying to each:

Bishop: Receive the Holy Spirit for the office and work of a priest in the church of God; who sins you forgive: they are forgiven; and those whose sins you retain: they are retained.

The bishop with both hands extended towards the ordinands, who kneel before her/him, says the following prayer, momentarily holding the crozier when making the sign of the cross over the ordinands:

Bishop: O God the source of all Holiness, of who is the true consecration and the fullness of spiritual benediction; we pray O Lord that you will + open the hearts and minds of these servants to your heavenly grace. These who have been raised to the priesthood, that through them your power may abundantly flow for the service of your people. May they be earnest and zealous as fellow-workers in our order and so prove themselves worthy of the sacred charge committed to them. And, as by a spotless blessing they now shall change for your people the bread and wine into the most Holy Body and Blood of your Son, may they be ever watchful that they keep the vessel of their ministry pure and undefiled. May every kind of righteousness spring forth within them and may their hearts be filled with compassion for the multitude that they may forget themselves in the love of others. May the radiance of your love and your great glory shine brightly in their hearts until, steadfast in your service, they rise into mature spiritual priesthood and the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, when their lives shall be hidden alongside Christ in God.

All: Amen.

The bishop is seated and taking the stole worn in the manner of a deacon, places it on the right shoulder and crosses it over the breast of the new priest and says:

Bishop: Take this stole as a symbol of the power of the priestly office, and as a channel of the overflowing stream of Christ's love.

The bishop vests each new priest with a chasuble, saying:

Bishop: Take the priestly vestment, that in it you may offer with our Lord Christ the most holy sacrifice of his sacred Body and Blood.

The bishop anoints the hands of each new priest with the holy oil of catecumens, saying:

Bishop: Be pleased, O Lord, to consecrate and hallow these hands by this anointing and our + blessing; that whatsoever they + bless may be blessed and whatsoever they consecrate may be consecrated and hallowed, in the name of our Lord Christ.

All: Amen.

The bishop closes the hands of each new priest together, palm to palm and they are bound together with a white linen strip. The bishop delivers to each a chalice containing wine and water, with a paten and host upon it, saying:

Bishop: Take authority to offer sacrifice to God and to celebrate the Holy Eucharist both for the living and the dead; in the name of the Lord.

All: Amen.

The bishop and priests cleanse their hands. The celebration is continued, one of the newly ordained priests going to the altar and reading the gospel:

The Gospel

There are two Gospel Readings: John 14 v 15 - 21 and Matthew 28 v 16 - 20

The priest says:

Priest: Please stand for the gospel.

The Gospel ended, the priest says:

Priest: Here ends the Gospel.

All: Praise be to You O Christ.

The celebration of Eucharist continues. Just before the offertorium, the new priests kneel before the bishop and each presents to him a lighted candle as a visible token of gratitude for the gift received and of the sacrifice of their lives for Christ's work. For the remainder of the mass, the new priests recite with the bishop the remainder of the Eucharist, word for word, taking particular care to say simultaneously with him the words of consecration with due intention to consecrate.

The Prayer of Consecration

The prayer of consecration from the Eucharist is used; in the same place as at a normal celebration, except the words 'for all our bishops, clergy and faithful', is replaced with: 'Especially for these who in Christ's holy name we have admitted to the sacred priesthood.

After the sentence, 'Under the veil of earthly things, etc.', the bishop is once more seated on the faldstool: the new priests kneel before him and, placing both hands between the bishops hands, take an oath of canonical obedience.

Bishop: Do you promise to myself and my successors due reverence and obedience in all matters canonical?

New Priest: I do so promise.

Bishop: Peace be with you.

New Priest: And with your spirit.

The bishop charges them:

Bishop: Dearly beloved, as what you have to handle is not without its mischances, I warn you that you do most diligently attend to the course of the Holy Eucharist and especially to that which regards the consecration, the breaking and communion of the Host. Be

careful also, in that everything that appertains to the administration of the sacraments of Christ's holy church, you do adhere to the form set forth by lawful authority and ensure that the intent, direction and charism is maintained.

The bishop blesses the new priests kneeling before him as follows:

Bishop: The blessing of God Almighty, the +Father, the + Son, and the Holy + Spirit, come down upon you, that you may be blessed in the priestly order and in the offering of sacrifice to almighty God, to whom belong honour and glory throughout the ages of ages.

The bishop is again seated upon the faldstool and addresses the new priests as follows:

Bishop: Dearly beloved, consider attentively the order you have taken and be ever mindful of the sacred trust reposed in you. Since it has pleased our Lord to call you even closer to himself, never forget the service of your brothers and sisters in Christ; for such is the golden pathway to his most glorious presence. Freely you have received, freely give.

The communio is sung and the Eucharist is continued to its close.

Please pray for the new priest(s) in the coming weeks and again on the first anniversary of this occasion. Please also pray for the Old Catholic Apostolic Church.