

**GENERAL SYNOD 2003**

**BILL NO 9  
SCHEDULE**

**THE ORDINAL**

# THE ORDINAL

## NOTES FOR THE WHOLE ORDINAL

### 1 **The threefold Ministry**

The Church of Ireland maintains the historic threefold ministry of bishops, priests (also called presbyters), and deacons. Its ministers are ordained by bishops according to authorized forms of service, with prayer and the laying on of hands (see the Preamble and Declaration to the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, the Preface to the Ordinal (1662), and the Constitution itself).

### 2 **Consecration of Bishops**

Bishops must be ordained and consecrated by at least three other bishops, joining together in the act of laying-on-of-hands, of whom one shall be the archbishop of the province or a bishop acting as deputy. Two assisting bishops should accompany the Archbishop throughout. Such consecrations should take place on a Sunday or Holy Day. A consecration may appropriately take place in the metropolitan cathedral or in a cathedral of the vacant see. In the latter case it is appropriate that, once consecrated, the new bishop receives the pastoral staff, is placed in the episcopal seat and subsequently presides at the Eucharist.

### 3 **Ordination of Priests and Deacons**

Priests (or presbyters) share with the bishop in laying hands on the heads of those ordained to the order of priest. The bishop alone lays hands on the heads of those ordained to the order of deacon.

### 4 **The Declarations**

The declarations as required by the Constitution of the Church of Ireland are taken prior to the service of ordination of deacons and priests.

### 5 **Form of Service**

Questions concerning the form of service to be used, and other matters concerning the conduct of the service, are to be determined by the bishop who presides at it, in accordance with the rubrics of the service and having regard to tradition and local custom.

### 6 **Readings**

The Readings will be either those provided in the Table of Readings page 000, or the set readings of the day.

### 7 **Vesture**

The ordinand may be vested in the vesture of the order before the service begins, or at the appropriate point after the laying-on-of-hands. Deacons and priests are vested with a scarf or stole according to individual choice, and bishops in their Episcopal habit (see the relevant Canon).

### 8 **The Presentation**

Before the service, the ordinand is appropriately seated with those who will present him/her to the bishop, while after the presentation, it is appropriate that all those being ordained should be seated together.

## THE ORDINATION OF DEACONS

### THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*At the entry of the ministers, a hymn, a canticle, or a psalm may be sung. Those to be ordained should be seated among the congregation with those who will present them for ordination*

*The bishop 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.**

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. *REB Romans 12: 5,6*

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 deacons *those* 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 so doing we are maintaining the historic threefold ministry of bishops, priests or presbyters, and deacons, which this Church has received.

*Each candidate is presented by sponsors to the bishop, with the words:*

Bishop..., we present...to be ordained deacon.

*After all candidates have been presented the bishop asks the archdeacon:*

Archdeacon, are those responsible for *their* selection and training satisfied that *they* are called and ready to be ordained deacon in the Church of God?

*Answer: They are satisfied.*

*The bishop says to each candidate:*

..., do you believe in your heart that God has called you to the office and work of a deacon in his Church?

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

*Bishop:*

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 *these* your *servants* now to be ordained  
the needful gifts of grace;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

*On a Principal Holy Day or Festival the Collect of the Day may be used*

## **PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD**

THE FIRST READING

THE PSALM

THE SECOND READING

*A canticle, hymn or anthem may be sung.*

THE GOSPEL READING

*is introduced with the following words*

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to...chapter...beginning at verse...

**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...**

## **THE RITE OF ORDINATION**

THE DECLARATIONS

*The candidates stand before the bishop, and the people sit.*

*The bishop says*

Deacons in the Church of God serve in the name of Christ, and so remind the whole Church that serving others is at the heart of all ministry.

Deacons have a special responsibility to ensure that those in need are cared for with compassion and humility. They are to strengthen the faithful, search out the careless and the indifferent, and minister to the sick, the needy, the poor and those in trouble.

When called upon to do so, they may baptize, preach and give instruction in the faith.

Deacons assist the bishop and priest under whom they serve. When the people are gathered for worship, deacons are authorized to read the Gospel, lead the people in intercession, and distribute the bread and wine of Holy Communion.

*The bishop says to those who are to be ordained*

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 accept the discipline of this Church and give due respect to those set over you in the Lord?

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

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

*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 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 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, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you, to make Christ known to all people?

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

*The bishop presents the candidates to the people, and says:*

You have heard the testimony of those who have presented these candidates for ordination, and also their own declarations made before you. Those whose duty it is to inquire about these persons and examine them have also found them to be of godly life and sound learning, and believe them to be duly called to serve God in this ministry. If any of you knows sufficient cause why any of these persons should not be ordained deacon, come forward and make it known.

Is it therefore your will that they should be ordained?

*Answer* **It is.**

Will you uphold them in their ministry?

*Answer* **We will.**

## **PRAYERS**

*Bishop:*

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 these persons. Let us pray also that God will each day enlarge and enlighten their understanding of the Scriptures, so that they may grow stronger and more mature in their ministry, as they fashion their lives and the lives of the people they serve on the word of God.

*The bishop or some other person leads the prayers for the candidates and for the ministry of the whole Church. An Ordination Litany (p000) should be used*

*Silence is kept*

*An appropriate hymn of invocation to the Holy Spirit is sung, kneeling*

**THE ORDINATION PRAYER  
WITH THE LAYING ON OF HANDS**

*The bishop stands. The congregation stands  
The candidates kneel before the bishop, 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, most merciful Father,  
because in your great love for humankind  
you sent your only Son Jesus Christ  
to take the form of a servant.  
He came to serve and not to be served;  
and taught us that he who would be great among us  
must be the servant of all.  
He humbled himself for our sake,  
and in obedience accepted death,  
even death on a cross;  
therefore you highly exalted him  
and gave him the name which is above every name.

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

*Here the bishop lays hands on the head of each candidate, and says*  
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon your servant . . .  
for the office and work of a deacon in your Church.

*When the bishop has laid hands on all of them, he continues,*  
Give to these your servants  
grace and power to fulfil their ministry.  
Make them faithful to serve, ready to teach,  
constant in advancing your gospel;  
and grant that, always having full assurance of faith,  
abounding in hope,  
and being rooted and grounded in love,  
they may continue strong and steadfast  
in 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.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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 creation, and the head of the Church.

**Glory to you, Lord.**

We praise and glorify you, most merciful Father,  
because in your great love for all people,  
you sent your only Son Jesus Christ  
to take the form of a servant.

**Glory to you, Lord.**

He came to serve and not to be served,  
and taught us that those who would be great among us  
must be the servants of all.

**Glory to you, Lord.**

He humbled himself for our sake,  
and in obedience accepted death, even death on a cross;  
therefore you highly exalted him  
and gave him the name which is above every name.

**Glory to you, Lord.**

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

**Glory to you, Lord.**

And now we give you thanks that you have called *these your servants*  
whom we ordain in your name,  
to share the work of ministry entrusted to your Church.

**Glory to you, Lord.**

Therefore, Father, through Christ our Lord,  
*Here the bishop lays hands on the head of each candidate and says:*  
pour out your Holy Spirit upon .....,  
for the office and work of a deacon in your Church.

Fill *them* with grace and power  
that *they* may fulfil *their* ministry.

**Pour out your Spirit, Lord.**

Make *them* faithful to serve,  
ready to teach,  
constant in advancing your Gospel,  
proclaiming by word and action the word of salvation  
with full assurance of faith,  
abounding in hope  
and rooted and grounded in love.

**Pour out your Spirit, Lord.**

Grant *them* wisdom and discipline to work faithfully  
with *their* fellow-servants in Christ,  
continuing strong and steadfast in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.**

*Each of the newly-ordained deacons is vested with a scarf or stole, if this has not already been done.*

*The bishop gives a bible to each deacon, saying:*  
Receive this Book, as a sign of the authority  
which God has given you this day to proclaim the Gospel to his people.  
Make it known in your words and in your deeds.

*Bishop:*  
Brothers and sisters in Christ, I present to you *these persons*  
who have been ordained deacons in the Church of God.

*The new deacons may be welcomed.*

THE PEACE

*The bishop 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

Your Son Jesus Christ took the form of a servant,  
and by his example taught us to be servants of all.

## GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*After the Great Silence a hymn may be sung.*

*The bishop says:*  
Let us pray.  
Almighty God,  
you have chosen and ordained *these* your *servants*  
to be *deacons* in his church  
and have given them the will to undertake this task:  
Give them also the strength to perform it,  
that *they* may complete the work which you have begun in them;  
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.**

BLESSING

*The bishop 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.**

DISMISSAL

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

*The newly ordained depart, carrying the bible, accompanied by the representatives of the parish  
and diocese.*

## *Ordination of Priests*

### THE ORDINATION OF PRIESTS

also called Presbyters

### **THE GATHERING OF GOD' S PEOPLE**

*At the entry of the ministers, a hymn, a canticle, or a psalm may be sung. Those to be ordained should be seated among the congregation with those who will present them for ordination*

*The bishop 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.**

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. *REB Romans 12: 5,6*

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 priests *those* 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 so doing we are maintaining the historic threefold ministry of bishops, priests or presbyters, and deacons, which this Church has received.

*Each candidate is presented by sponsors to the bishop with the words:*

Bishop ....., we present .... to be ordained priest.

*After all candidates have been presented the bishop asks the archdeacon:*

Have those responsible for *their* selection and training been satisfied that *they are* called and ready to be ordained deacon in the Church of God?

*Answer: They are satisfied.*

*The bishop says to each candidate*

....., do you believe in your heart, that God has called you to the office and work of a priest in his Church?

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

Bishop

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

## ***Ordination of Priests***

that in their vocation and ministry  
they may be instruments of your love,  
and give to *these* your *servants* now to be ordained  
the needful gifts of grace;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD**

THE FIRST READING

THE PSALM

THE SECOND READING

*A canticle, hymn or anthem may be sung.*

THE GOSPEL READING

*Is introduced with the following words:*

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to.... Chapter.... beginning at  
verse.....

**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.....**

### **THE RITE OF ORDINATION**

THE DECLARATIONS

*The candidates stand before the bishop, and the people sit.*

*The bishop says*

Priests (or presbyters) in the Church of God are called to work with the bishop and with other priests as servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent. They are to proclaim the Word of the Lord, to call those who hear to repentance, and in Christ's name to pronounce absolution and to declare the forgiveness of sins. They are to baptize and to catechise. They are to preside at the celebration of the Holy Communion. They are to lead God's people in prayer and worship, to intercede for them, to bless them in the name of the Lord, and to teach and encourage them by word and example. They are to minister to the sick and to prepare the dying for their death. They must always set the Good Shepherd before them as the pattern of their calling, caring for the people committed to their charge and joining with them in a common witness, that the world may know God's glory and love.

In the name of our Lord we ask you to remember the greatness of the trust now to be committed to your charge. You are to be messengers, watchers and stewards of the Lord; you are to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for the Lord's family, to search for God's children in the wilderness of the world's

*Ordination of Priests*

temptations and to guide them through its confusions, so that they may be saved through Christ for ever.

Your ministry will be one of joy as well as of responsibility, of happiness as well as of diligence. Yet remember in your heart that if it should come about that the Church, or any of its members, is hurt or hindered by reason of your neglect, your fault will be great and God's judgement will follow. So pray constantly for his mercy and for the grace you will need to fulfil your call.

We trust that, supported by the prayers and encouragement of the household of faith, you long ago began to weigh and ponder all these things and that you are fully determined, by the grace of God, to give yourselves wholly to his service. We trust that you will devote to him your best powers of mind and spirit so that, as you daily follow the rule and teaching of our Lord, with the heavenly assistance of his Holy Spirit, you may grow up into his likeness and lead into holiness the lives of all with whom you have to do.

*The bishop says to those who are to be ordained*

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 accept the discipline of this Church and give due respect to those set over you in the Lord?

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

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

*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 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 encourage God's people to be good stewards of their gifts, that every member may be equipped for the work of ministering, and that the Body of Christ be built up in love?

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

## *Ordination of Priests*

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, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you, to make Christ known to all people?

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

*The bishop presents the candidates to the people, and says:*

You have heard the testimony of those who present these candidates for ordination, and also their own declarations made before you. Those whose duty it is to inquire about these persons, and examine them have also found them to be of godly life and sound learning, and believe them to be duly called to serve God in this ministry. If any of you knows sufficient cause why any of these persons should not be ordained deacon, come forward and make it known.

Is it therefore your will that they should be ordained?

**It is.**

Will you uphold them in their ministry?

**We will.**

### **PRAYERS**

*Bishop*

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 these persons. Let us pray also that God will each day enlarge and enlighten their understanding of the Scriptures, so that they may grow stronger and more mature in their ministry, as they fashion their lives and the lives of their people on the Word of God.

Let us pray.

*The bishop or some other person leads the prayers for the candidates and for the ministry of the whole Church. An Ordination Litany (p000) should be used*

*Silent prayer*

*The Hymn Veni Creator Spiritus is sung.*

### **THE ORDINATION PRAYER WITH THE LAYING ON OF HANDS**

*The bishop stands, with the assisting priests beside him; the congregation stands.  
The candidates kneel before the bishop, 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

*Ordination of Priests*

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,  
and head of the Church.  
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 these your servants,  
whom we ordain in your name  
to share this ministry entrusted to your Church.

**Here the bishop and priests lay their hands on the head of each candidate  
as the bishop says**

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

*The bishop then continues*

Give to these your *servants* grace and power  
to fulfil the ministry to which *they* are called,  
to proclaim the gospel of your salvation,  
to minister the sacraments of the new covenant;  
to watch over and care for your people;  
to pronounce absolution; and to bless them in your name.  
As you have called them to your service  
make them worthy of their calling.  
Give them wisdom and discipline to work faithfully  
with all their fellow servants in Christ  
that the world may come to know your glory and your love.  
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.**

Or

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.  
**Glory to you, Lord.**

We praise and glorify you because you have given us your only Son Jesus Christ  
The image of your eternal and invisible glory,

*Ordination of Priests*

The firstborn of all creation and head of the Church.

**Glory to you, Lord.**

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

**Glory to you, Lord.**

And now we give you thanks that you have called these your servants, whom we ordain in your name, to share in the sacred ministry of the Gospel of Christ, the Apostle and High Priest of our faith and the Shepherd of our souls.

**Glory to you, Lord.**

*Here the bishop and priests lay their hands on the head of each candidate as the bishop says*

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

*The bishop then continues*

Fill *them* with grace and power that *they* may fulfil your call to be a messenger and steward of the Lord, to watch over and care for those committed to *their* charge, and to join with them in a common witness to them world.

***Pour out your Spirit, Lord.***

Set *them* among your people to proclaim boldly the word of salvation, and to share in Christ's work of reconciliation. together with them may *they* offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable in your sight, and celebrate the sacraments of the new covenant.

***Pour out your Spirit, Lord.***

Grant *them* wisdom and discipline to work faithfully with all *their* fellow-servants in Christ, to search for God's children in the wilderness of this world's temptations, and to guide them through its confusions, so that they may be saved through Christ for ever.

***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**

*Each newly-ordained priest is now vested in the customary manner, if this has not already been done*

*The bishop gives a bible to each priest, saying:*

Receive this Book,

**As a sign of the authority which God has given you this day**  
to preach the Word and to minister his holy sacraments

## ***Ordination of Priests***

*Bishop:*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I present to you *these persons* who have been ordained priests in the Church of God

*The congregation may greet the newly-ordained priests.*

THE PEACE

*The bishop 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 bishop says:*

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

you have chosen and ordained *these* your *servants*  
to be *ministers* and *stewards* of his word and sacraments  
and have given *them* the will to undertake these things:  
Give them also the strength to perform them,  
that *they* may complete the work which you have begun in them;  
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.**

BLESSING



*Ordination of Priests*

*The bishop 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-ordained priests stand before the bishop.*

***The bishop says:***

**Remember always with thanksgiving  
that the treasure now entrusted to you is Christ's own flock,  
bought through the shedding of his own blood on the cross.  
The Church and the congregation among whom you will minister  
are one with him; they are his body.  
Go forth to serve them with joy,  
build them up in faith,  
and do all in your power to bring them to loving obedience to Christ.**

**DISMISSAL**

**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord**

In the name of Christ. Amen

*The newly-ordained priests depart, each carrying the bible, accompanied by representatives of the parish and diocese.*

## **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***

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. *REB Romans 12: 5,6*

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 so doing we are maintaining the historic threefold ministry of bishops, priests or presbyters, and deacons, which this Church has received.

*The candidate is presented by sponsors to the archbishop, with the words:*

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

*The archbishop says to the candidate:*

Do you believe, so far as you know your own 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

THE PSALM

THE SECOND READING

*A canticle, hymn or anthem may be sung.*

THE GOSPEL READING

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

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

**We believe...**

## **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 candidate 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?

**It is.**

Will you uphold ..... in *his* ministry?

**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/she* may grow stronger and more mature in *his* ministry, as *he* fashion *his* life and the lives of *his* people on the word of God.

*The archbishop or some other person leads the prayers for the candidate and for the ministry of the whole Church. An Ordination litany (p000) should be used.*

*Silence is kept.*

*The Veni Creator Spiritus 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 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  
to equip them 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.**

OR:

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.  
**Glory to you, Lord.**

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 creation,  
to be the Apostle and High Priest of our faith,  
and the Shepherd of our souls.  
**Glory to you, Lord.**

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  
to equip them for the work of ministry  
and the building up of his body.  
**Glory to you, Lord.**

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.

**Glory to you, Lord.**

*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.

**Pour out your Spirit, Lord.**

Through *him* increase your Church, renew its ministry,  
and unite its members in a holy fellowship of truth and love.

**Pour out your Spirit, Lord.**

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.

**Pour out your Spirit, Lord.**

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.

**Pour out your Spirit, Lord.**

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.

**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 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.**

### BLESSING

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 newly-consecrated bishop stands before the archbishop.*

*The archbishop gives the 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.*

## **ORDINATION LITANY**

*Either of the following is used.*

God the Father, creator of heaven and earth,  
**have mercy on us.**

God the Son, redeemer of the world,  
**have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit, giver of life,  
**have mercy on us.**

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,  
three Persons in one God,  
**have mercy on us.**

Save us, good Lord,  
from all sin and wickedness,  
from pride, hypocrisy and conceit,  
from envy, hatred and malice, and all uncharitableness,  
**save us, good Lord.**

From sins of thought, word and deed,  
from the lusts of the flesh,  
from the deceits of the world and the snares of the devil,  
**save us, good Lord.**

From fire, storm and flood,  
from disease, pestilence and want,  
from war and murder, and from dying unprepared,  
**save us, good Lord.**

From all false doctrine,  
from hardness of heart,  
and from contempt of your word and commandment,  
**save us, good Lord.**

In times of sorrow and in times of joy,  
in the hour of death,  
and in the day of judgement,  
**save us, good Lord.**

Save us, Lord Christ,  
by the mystery of your holy incarnation,  
by your birth, childhood and obedience,  
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,  
**save us, Lord Christ.**

By your ministry in word and work,  
by your mighty acts of power,  
and by your preaching of the kingdom,  
**save us, Lord Christ.**

By your agony and trial,  
by your cross and passion,  
and by your precious death and burial,  
**save us, Lord Christ.**

By your mighty resurrection,  
by your glorious ascension,  
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,  
**save us, Lord Christ.**

Hear us, good Lord:  
govern and direct your holy Church,  
fill it with love and truth,  
and grant it that unity which is your will,  
**hear us, good Lord.**

Give your Church courage to preach the gospel  
and to make disciples of all the nations,  
**hear us, good Lord.**

Give knowledge and understanding  
to bishops, priests and deacons,  
that by their life and teaching they may proclaim your word,  
**hear us, good Lord.**

*At the Ordination of Deacons*

Bless your servants now to be made deacons  
that they may faithfully serve your Church  
and reveal your glory in the world,  
**hear us, good Lord.**

*At the Ordination of Priests*

Bless your servants now to be made priests  
that they may faithfully serve your Church  
and reveal your glory in the world,  
**hear us, good Lord.**

*At the Ordination of Bishops*

Bless your servant now to be made bishop  
in faithfully serving your Church  
and revealing your glory in the world,  
**hear us, good Lord.**

Give all people grace to receive your word  
and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit,  
**hear us, good Lord.**

Bring all who have erred and are deceived  
into the way of truth,  
**hear us, good Lord.**

Saviour of the world,  
forgive our sins, known and unknown,  
things done, and left undone;  
grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit  
that we may amend our lives according to your holy word,  
and share with all your people the joys of your eternal kingdom.

Jesus, Lamb of God,  
**have mercy on us.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
**have mercy on us.**

Jesus, Redeemer of the world,  
**give us your peace.**

*Bishop:*

Lord, you are merciful and forgive our sins:  
You hear those who pray in the name of your Son.  
Grant that what we have asked in faith  
we may obtain according to your will;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**OR**

God the Father,  
**Have mercy on us.**

God the Son,  
**Have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
**Have mercy on us.**

Holy Trinity, one God,  
**Have mercy on us.**

We humbly pray that you will hear us, good Lord.

Grant to your people the forgiveness of sins,  
growth in grace,  
and the fruit of the Spirit.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Send your peace to the world  
which you have reconciled to yourself  
by the ministry of your Son, Jesus Christ.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Heal the divisions of your Church,  
that all may be one,  
so that the world may believe.  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lead the members of your Church in their vocation and ministry,  
that they may serve you in true and godly living.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Raise up faithful and able ministers for your Church,  
that the Gospel may be known to all people.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Fill them with compassion  
clothe them with humility,  
and move them to care for all your people.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Inspire all bishops, priests and deacons with your love,  
that with all your people they may hunger for truth.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bless your *servant(s)*..  
who are to be admitted to the order of...  
pour your grace upon *them*,  
that they may faithfully fulfil the duties of this ministry,  
build up your Church and glorify your name.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Sustain by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit,  
all who are called to the ordained ministries of your Church,  
and encourage them to persevere to the end.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Gather us with all your saints into your eternal kingdom.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Bishop:*

Eternal God and Father,  
you have promised to hear those who pray  
in the name of your Son:

Grant that what we have asked in faith,  
we may obtain according to your will,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**