

Presentation of the Book of Common Prayer (2004)
General Synod 2004
Armagh
11th May 2004

Canon Ricky Rountree:

Archbishop, it is my great pleasure to announce the presentation of the 2004 edition of the Book of Common Prayer at this historic General Synod in the Primatial See of Armagh. This being the third such revision of the Book of Common Prayer in the Church of Ireland since Disestablishment in 1870 is a thorough-going revision of the prayer book and includes for the first time the main liturgical services of the Church in both traditional language and contemporary language. This has been achieved in accordance with the wish of this house expressed in 1997 and has appeared meeting the deadline set for this work at that time.

All the members of this house attending this General Synod together with our special guests have received a special presentation copy of the pew edition of the book by the kind generosity of yourself and the Diocesan Council of Armagh. As member of the body we extend our grateful thanks to you and to the Diocesan Council.

We would now like to present some specially prepared editions of the desk edition of the BCP (2004), hand bound in pure leather and suitably inscribed, and to also present both the Braille edition and the Irish language edition. The inscriptions have been completed by hand by the Dean of Lismore, (Very Reverend Billy Beare) a wonderful link with a former Hon Secretary of the Liturgical Advisory Committee who contributed so much to this process. I refer of course to Dean Gilbert Mayes.

1. We are greatly indebted to Columba Press who have made such a magnificent job of this production and to thank Mr Sean O'Boyle and his staff for their untiring and enthusiastic commitment to the production of this new Book of Common Prayer.
Mr Sean O'Boyle will now present to you, Your Grace, the copy which henceforth will be laid upon the table of this house at the beginning of its annual business.
2. The Church of Ireland is very appreciative of the work of the Braille Unit at Maghaberry Prison for their willingness to make the services of the Book of Common Prayer available for Braille users in the Church. We thank Governor Andrew Jeanes for joining us for this presentation and ask Mr David Johnston, Head of the Braille Unit at Maghaberry to present a Braille edition to one of our two Braille proof readers (Mrs Margaret Mann and Mrs Enid Maxwell)
3. Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise have made an enormous contribution making the Book of Common Prayer available to the Irish speaking population of the Church of Ireland and the wider church. An Cumann is represented here today by the Rt Rev Donal Caird, Rev Canon Gary Hastings, Catriona Hastings, Leaslaoi O'Briain agus Daithi O Maolchoille. Special mention must be made of the enormous contribution Canon Gary

Hastings has made in making the Leabhair na hUrnai Coitinne 2004 a reality by his work of translation and to the large group of eminent theological and Irish scholars who have assisted in its production. This presentation of an Leabhair na hUrnai will be followed by a special day of activities centred on Downpatrick Cathedral on 4th September. Mr Daithi O'Maolchoille, treasurer of Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise will now present a copy of the Irish language Book of Common Prayer to Bishop Donald Caird.

I now hand over to Rev Shane Forster, the Diocesan Liturgical Officer of our host diocese of Armagh.

Rev Shane Forster

4. To mark this special moment a further number of specially prepared desk editions of the Book of Common Prayer will now be presented. Firstly to the Primate of both provinces of the Church of Ireland. To you Archbishop Robin Eames as Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan.
5. Secondly to you Archbishop John Neill as Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough, Primate of Ireland and Metropolitan.
6. We now present four further copies to those who have been very involved in the preparation of this new Book of Common Prayer. Firstly to Bishop Harold Miller, Chairman of the Liturgical Advisory Committee.
7. Secondly to Dean Michael Burrows, Vice-Chairman of the Liturgical Advisory Committee.
8. Thirdly to Canon Brian Mayne, Editor of the Book of Common Prayer (2004) and former Hon Secretary of the Liturgical Advisory Committee
9. And finally to Canon Ricky Rountree, Central Liturgical Officer of the Church of Ireland and Hon. Secretary of the Liturgical Advisory Committee.

This new edition of the Book of Common Prayer will feature throughout this meeting of the General Synod. Members are asked to keep their copy with them throughout these three days. We will be using the book in the conduct of our morning devotions each day and for a special second time of devotion each day at the beginning of the afternoon business. You are also asked to bring your copy with you this evening to the Cathedral for the General Synod Service which will mark the introduction of this latest edition of the Church of Ireland, Book of Common Prayer.