

Anglican Diocese of Gippsland



Chrism Eucharist
including
Renewal of Vows
&
Blessing of Oils

St Paul's Cathedral
Sale

11:00am
Tuesday in Holy Week
15 April 2025

In Holy Week, Christian people gather in the cathedral church of the diocese with their deacons and priests around the diocesan bishop to celebrate the blessing of oils and renewal of ordination vows.

Jesus is the Christ, 'the Anointed One', and we are 'Christened' by water and the Spirit as we are anointed in his faith, hope, and love. In the synagogue at Nazareth as he began his ministry, Jesus appropriated to himself the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me ...' (Luke 4:18) Christians are anointed with the sign of the cross as daughters and sons of God, called and consecrated for lives of service after the pattern of the Servant and Son of God who gave his life as a ransom for many.

Oil is an especially important liturgical symbol during Easter because it is the privileged time for adult initiation and the baptism of children. The entire Christian community renews the promises of baptism at the Easter Vigil.

The Oil of the Sick is pure olive oil, favoured since ancient times for its soothing and healing qualities. As we read in the Letter of James, 'Are any among you sick? They should call for the presbyters of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.' (5:14-16)

The Oil of Catechumens is also pure olive oil. It traditionally was used with those preparing for baptism, to strengthen their resolve in renouncing evil and turning to Christ. The notion of being strengthened by oil is scriptural. God's anointing fortifies us to face evil (Ps 45:8 and Heb 1:9) and enlightens our intellect from falsehood (1 Jn 2:27). The prayer of blessing for the oil of catechumens indicates these fruits when it asks God to bless those who are anointed with it as a sign of God's defence in their "fight against sin, the world and the devil", so that they may cling to the knowledge of Christ's victory as they share in it.

The Oil of Chrism is a rich blend of aromatic oils, fragrances, and pure olive oil with a characteristic perfume. One of the ingredients of chrism is balsam, an oily, resinous, and odorous substance, which flows spontaneously or by incision from certain plants. Another ingredient is myrrh, which has a long history of use in worship. With cinnamon, myrrh was the principal ingredient used by Moses to anoint the Tabernacle or Tent of Meeting, and the Ark of the Covenant.

In the Gospel of Matthew the Magi present myrrh as a gift to the infant Jesus, a symbol of his prophetic ministry, pre-figuring his death and burial.

In consecrating the Oil of Chrism, the bishop first pours the mixture of balsam and myrrh into the olive oil. The bishop then prays the prayer of blessing. Finally, the bishop breathes three times in the form of a cross over the chrism, a sign of the Spirit descending into the oil, in an action reminiscent of the crucified and raised Lord breathing his Spirit on his disciples in the evening of the first Easter Day.

The Oil of the Sick is used in the Church's ministry of healing – as Christ cares tenderly for his people in times of anxiety and sickness, and when we are close to death.

The Oil of Catechumens is used to anoint those who are preparing for baptism. It is also used in deliverance ministry, proclaiming the truth of Christ's resurrection triumphing over darkness, sin, evil, and death.

The Oil of Chrism is used to anoint the newly baptised. It is also used in the ordination of priests and bishops, in the consecration of churches and the coronation of Christian monarchs.

This Eucharist is also the occasion when deacons and priests of the diocese in collegial unity with their bishop renew their ordination vows.

Following the sermon, the Bishop invites first the whole people of God, followed by the lay readers, deacons, and priests, to reaffirm their baptismal and (as appropriate) ordination vows, drawing on the language of the ordinal for those in holy orders. The deacon of the Eucharist then invites the bishop to reaffirm his or her vows in the same way.

This Eucharist is an act of repentance and renewal. It prepares clergy and laity to participate in and proclaim the Passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. To be the bearers of this mystery of salvation is awesome indeed.

May we know that we stand on holy ground “as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries” (1 Corinthians 4:1).

Musical setting *Mass of the Saints*, Keren C Terpstra
Organist Marion Dewar

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Entrance Hymn

1

Father, we give you thanks, who planted
your holy name within our hearts.
Knowledge and faith and life immortal
Jesus your Son to us imparts.

2

Lord, you have made all for your pleasure,
and giv'n us food for all our days,
giving in Christ the bread eternal;
yours is the power, be yours the praise.

3

Over your church, Lord, watch in mercy,
save it from evil, guard it still,
perfect it in your love, unite it,
cleansed and conforming to your will.

4

As grain, once scattered on the hillsides,
was in the broken bread made one,
so may your world-wide church be gathered
into your kingdom by your Son.

Words: From the *Didache* c. 110
tr. Francis Bland Tucker (1895-1984) *alt.*
Tune: *Spiritus Vitae*
Together in Song 495
CCLI# 1795650

Welcome to Country / Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

Gathering in God's Name

*Bishop
People*

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

Bishop The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Deacon God shows great love for us in that while
we were still sinners Christ died for us.
Let us then confess our sins in penitence
and faith.

Silent prayer

All sing

Kyrie eleison	Kyrie eleison
Christe eleison	Christe eleison
Kyrie eleison	Kyrie eleison

Deacon Merciful God,
**our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought,
word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do;
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Bishop Richard pronounces absolution

6. Surely your goodness and loving-kindness will follow me,
all the days of my life:
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

R

Text: *A Prayer Book for Australia*
Response: Joseph Gelineau
Together in Song 11
CCLI# 5858008

All stand

Gospel

Luke 7:36 – 50

All sit

Sermon

Bishop Richard

Remain seated for the hymn

Hymn

1. Myrrh-bearing Mary from Magdala came,
seeking her Jesus, with spirit aflame;
he had commanded her sickness depart,
she now would thank him for newness of heart.
2. Myrrh-bearing Mary to Bethany came,
seeking her Jesus who called her by name;
there she anointed his feet and his head
with precious oils that were meant for the dead.
3. Myrrh-bearing Mary to Calvary came,
seeking her Jesus who hung there in shame;
and as the careless and heedless passed by,
hopeless and helpless she watched her Lord die.
4. Myrrh-bearing Mary to death's garden came,
seeking her Jesus who'd borne the world's blame;
heart-sick, she stood, weeping outside the grave,
pleading the Gard'ner his body to save.

Words: Rae E Whitney (1927-2023), *alt.*
Tune: Bonnie George Campbell (*TiS* 624)
Together in Song 660
CCLI# 5963780

All stand

Renewal of Vocational Commitments and Ordination Vows

Bishop

My dear sisters and brothers, the ministry we share is none other than the sacrificial ministry of Christ, who gave himself up to death on the cross for the salvation of the world. By his glorious resurrection he has opened for us the way to everlasting life. By the gift of the Holy Spirit in baptism, the crucified and raised Lord showers us all with grace and anoints us all for lives of service. In baptism we are called to be a royal priesthood, a people belonging to God, to make Christ known in all the world.

Therefore I invite us all to claim as our own the dignity and freedom God gives us as adopted daughters and sons, committing ourselves afresh to the radical equality of ministers of the gospel within the Body of Christ, the Servant of the servants of God.

People **I turn to Christ.
I repent of my sins.
I reject selfish living, and all that is false and unjust.
I renounce Satan and all that is evil.**

**I will, by God's grace, strive to live
as a disciple of Christ,
loving God with my whole heart
and my neighbour as myself until my life's end.**

The Lay Readers remain standing

The clergy and people sit

Bishop In baptism we are joined to Christ in his death and resurrection, called and equipped by the Holy Spirit to serve God in the Church and in the world.

Diocesan Lay Readers hold the Bishop's licence as a sign of the baptismal foundation of all Christian ministry.

Do you affirm your vocation so to serve in the places you are set, leading God's people in prayer and worship, studying and expounding the Scriptures, and working alongside those who have nominated you for this commission?

Lay Readers **I do.**

The Lay Readers sit

The Clergy stand

Bishop The Lord calls some of us to serve as deacons, priests, and bishops, to encourage and build up the body of Christ, by preaching the word, leading God's people in prayer, declaring God's forgiveness and blessing, and faithfully ministering the sacraments of God's grace with reverence and care.

Do you here, in the presence of Christ and the Church, renew your commitment to the ministry which is both yours and mine?

Clergy **I do.**

Bishop Deacons, do you reaffirm your promise to take your part in reading the Holy Scriptures in the church, assisting in teaching the doctrine of Christ and administering the sacraments?

Deacons **I do.**

Bishop Do you reaffirm your promise to encourage the members of Christ's body by word and example, ministering to the sick, the needy, and all who are oppressed or in trouble?

Deacons **I do.**

Bishop Do you reaffirm your promise to set forward Christ's kingdom in the world, proclaiming the gospel and working for reconciliation, peace and justice?

Deacons **I do.**

The Deacons sit

Bishop Priests, do you reaffirm your promise to give yourselves to prayer and study?

Priests **I do.**

Bishop Do you reaffirm your promise so to minister the word of God and the sacraments of the New Covenant that the reconciling love of Christ may be known and received?

Priests **I do.**

Bishop Do you reaffirm your promise to be a faithful servant of all those committed to your care, shaping your life in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to all people?

Priests **I do.**

The Priests sit

Deacon of the Eucharist

Bishop, do you reaffirm your promise to be faithful in prayer, and diligent in study of the Holy Scriptures, so that you may be equipped to teach and encourage with sound doctrine?

Bishop **I do.**

Deacon Do you reaffirm your promise to administer with mercy the discipline of the church, correcting and setting aside teaching that is contrary to the mind of Christ, striving to build up the body of Christ in unity, truth and love?

Bishop **I do.**

Deacon Do you reaffirm your promise to be faithful in ordaining and commissioning others for ministry, showing compassion to the poor and the stranger, being gentle with the abused and needy, and defending those who have no helper?

Bishop **I do.**

All stand

Bishop, Priests, and Deacons say

May the Lord who has given us the will to do these things, grant us grace and power to perform them.

Bishop People of God, pray for your deacons, priests and bishop. Ask the Lord to bless us with the fullness of love, helping us to be faithful ministers of Christ the High Priest and Servant of all, so that we may lead you with all God's people in the way of righteousness and peace.

People **May the Lord bless you and keep you and give you peace. Amen.**

Greeting of Peace

Bishop Christ has reconciled us to God
in one body by the cross.

People **We meet in his name and share his peace.**

Bishop The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn

1
O changeless Christ, for ever new,
who walked our earthly ways,
still draw our hearts as once you drew
the hearts of other days.

2
As once you spoke by plain and hill
or taught by shore and sea,
so be today our teacher still,
O Christ of Galilee.

3
As wind and storm their Master heard
and his command fulfilled,
may troubled hearts receive your word,
the tempest-tossed be stilled.

4
And as of old to all who prayed
your healing hand was shown,
so be your touch upon us laid,
unseen but not unknown.

5
In broken bread, in wine outpoured,
your new and living way
proclaim to us, O risen Lord,
O Christ of this our day.

O changeless Christ, till life is past
 your blessing still be given;
 then bring us home, to taste at last
 the timeless joys of heaven.

Words: Timothy Dudley Smith (1926-2000)

Tune: St Botolph

Together in Song 254

CCLI Song # 960565

All remain standing

The Great Thanksgiving

Bishop The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Bishop Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

All glory and honour be yours
 always and everywhere,
 mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
 our Saviour Jesus Christ,
 who became obedient unto death,
 even death on a cross.

In the darkness of our denial,
 you looked on us in love.

In the garden of our grief you called us by name.
 When we fled from suffering
 you walked beside us on the way.

The tree of defeat became the tree of victory;
 where life was lost, there life has been restored.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

All (sung) Holy, **holy,** holy, **holy,**
holy, Lord God of hosts **holy, Lord God of hosts**
heaven and earth, **heaven and earth,**
are full of your glory; **are full of your glory.**
Hosanna in the highest. **Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes **Blessed is he who comes**
in the name of the Lord; **in the name of the Lord.**
Hosanna in the highest. **Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts
of your creation, this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

All (sung) Christ has died. **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen. **Christ is risen.**
Christ will come again. **Christ will come again.**

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

All (sung) Blessing and honour **Blessing and honour**
and glory and power **and glory and power**
are yours for ever **are yours for ever**
and ever. Amen. **and ever. Amen.**

Bishop As our Saviour Christ has taught us
we are confident to pray:

All **Our Father in heaven,**
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Bishop We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body
People **for we all share in the one bread.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God,
you take away
the sin of the world,
have mercy on us;

**Lamb of God,
you take away
the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God,
you take away
the sin of the world,
grant us your peace;

**Lamb of God,
you take away
the sin of the world.
grant us your peace.**

Bishop The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body
and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died
for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith
with thanksgiving.

Prayer after Communion

Bishop Lord God, in baptism you anoint us with your Spirit,
and in this Eucharist you feed us with the bread of life.
Through these holy mysteries confirm our faith
that by the death and resurrection of your Son
we may walk in the way of salvation.

All **Father,
we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

All remain standing

Consecration of the Oils

The Bishop says

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.

The oil of the Sick is brought forward

The oil for the anointing of the sick and dying.

The Bishop says

Blessed are you Sovereign God, gentle and merciful,
creator of heaven and earth.

Your Word brought light out of darkness,
and daily your Spirit renews the face of the earth.

Your anointed Son brought healing
to those in weakness and distress.

Jesus broke the power of evil and set us free from sin and death
that we might praise your name for ever.

By the power of your Spirit may your blessing rest on those
who are anointed with this oil in your name;
may they be made whole in body, mind and spirit,
restored in your image, renewed in your love,
and serve you as daughters and sons in your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

The oil of Catechumens is brought forward

The oil of the Catechumens.

The Bishop says

Blessed are you Sovereign God,
the protector of all who believe in you.
Your Christ overcame the powers of evil,
lifted high upon the cross.

By the power of your Spirit may your blessing rest
on those who are anointed with this oil in your name;
as they prepare for the waters of baptism
may it be for them a sign of your defence in their fight
against sin, the world and the devil,
and bring them to share in Christ's victory.

Blessed be God for ever.

The oil of Chrism is brought forward

The oil of Chrism.

*Taking the perfumed balsam, the Bishop mixes it with pure olive oil to form
the Oil of Chrism. He breathes over the Oil, and with hands extended says*

Blessed are you Sovereign God, Creator of all that is,
upholding by your grace all who hear your call.
Under your covenant priests and rulers
were anointed to serve you,
and in the fulness of time you anointed your Son
by the Holy Spirit to be the Christ, the Saviour and Servant of all.

By the power of your Spirit may your blessing rest
on those who are anointed with this Chrism in your name.
Let it be for them a sign of joy and gladness
as they share in the royal priesthood of the New Covenant
and make known the kingdom of Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
we lift our voices of thanks and praise.

**Blessed be God, our strength and our salvation,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The oils will be available for collection from the Chapel after the service.

Sending out of God's People

Bishop
People

Our help is in the name of the Lord:
the maker of heaven and earth.

Bishop
People

Blessed be the name of the Lord:
from this time forth, for evermore.

Bishop

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself,
that you may find in him crucified
a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sin forgiven;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Deacon
People

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

Hymn

1

When pain and terror strike by chance,
with causes unexplained,
when God seems absent or asleep,
and evil unrestrained,
we crave an all-controlling force
ready to rule and warn,
but find, far-shadowed by a cross,
a child in weakness born.

2

We marvel at God's nakedness
and sense the play of chance
in Herod's anger, Peter's growth,
and Pilate's troubled glance.
Our Saviour's tempted, tested way
never was cut and dried,
but costly, risking life and love,
betrayed and crucified.

3

How deep the Wisdom of our God,
how weak, but truly wise,
to risk, to sacrifice, to die,
and from the grave arise,
to shed the shroud of death and fate,
freeing our hearts for good.
We breathe the ample air of hope
and take our chance with God.

4

Since Wisdom took its chance on earth,
to show God's living way,
we'll trust that fear and force will fail,
and Wisdom win the day.
Then come, dear Christ, and hold us fast
when faith and hope are torn,
and bring us, in your loving arms,
to resurrection morn.

Words: Brian Arthur Wren (born 1936)
Tune: Kingsfold
Together in Song 262
CCLI# 1151995

A light lunch will be served in the Hall

Clergy may collect the Holy Oils from the Cathedral

*Holy Oils from previous years are to be burned
or returned to the earth*