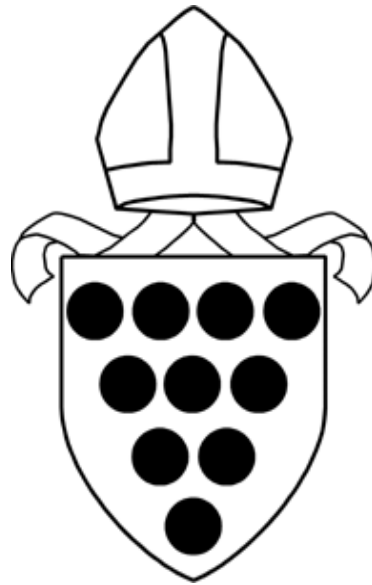


The Diocese of Worcester



Chrism Eucharist

2021

**with the Affirmation of Ministries
and the Blessing of Oils**

President: The Bishop of Worcester
Preacher: The Bishop of Dudley

Preface

Welcome to this Chrism Eucharist and thank you for making time to come at a very busy period. One of the reasons why we gather today is precisely because it is a busy time. My appointment as Lord High Almoner means that we meet on the Monday of Holy Week rather than on Maundy Thursday. Reports from other dioceses suggest that people have found it helpful to come and be refreshed and renewed in their calling near the beginning of Holy Week. I hope very much that this will be everyone's experience here.

The events of Holy Week are central to the Christian faith. At the eucharist of the Last Supper and right through until Easter Day, nearly all of us will, in our different ways, whether clergy or laity, be leading our churches through the celebration of these holy days. We shall be giving of ourselves, whether we are churchwardens welcoming at the door or readers preaching or clergy leading worship. We come this morning not principally to give but to receive. My prayer is that we shall all be refreshed and fed, and so strengthened to go back to fulfil our various ministries this week.

At the heart of this morning's service lie two special elements. First, the rededication of all those in ministry to their calling, and the reaffirmation of their ordination vows by the three orders of clergy – deacons, priests and bishops. On Maundy Thursday, Jesus offered what we often call his 'high priestly prayer' and, like a deacon, washed his disciples' feet. As we prepare for Maundy Thursday, we renew our commitment to ministry. Second, we bless the holy oils. We do it on this day so that their first use may be with candidates for baptism and confirmation at Easter. The three oils blessed today are

- ❖ the oil for use at the signing with the cross before baptism, sometimes called the oil of catechumens, which is pure olive oil, reflecting the practice of athletes preparing for a contest;
- ❖ the oil of healing – olive oil for use at anointing at a key moment in illness or in a process of restoring wholeness;
- ❖ the oil of chrism, which is oil mixed with fragrant spices, expressing the blessings of Christ and the richness of the Holy Spirit, used to accompany the prayer after baptism, or with the laying on of hands at confirmation, in ordination and in commissioning for new ministry.

God bless you in your particular witness and ministry during Holy Week and may the joy of the risen Christ be yours this Easter.

+John

The Gathering

The people stand at the entry of the ministers.

The Greeting

Bishop In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Jesus Christ has made us a kingdom of priests
to serve his God and Father.

All **Glory and kingship be his for ever and ever.**

Grace, mercy and peace be with you
and also with you.

All

The bishop welcomes the people and introduces the service.

Photographs are being taken at this service for publicity purposes, including on social media. If you do not wish to appear in these photos, please make yourself known to the photographer. Photos can be viewed after the event at www.facebook.com/cofeworcester. For more information or to ask for a photo to be removed, please contact communications@cofe-worcester.org.uk.

Prayers of Penitence

The bishop invites the people to confess their sins.

All **Faithful God,
we have heeded your call,
yet want to escape it;
we have taken your yoke,
yet rebel against it.
Our love for you is like the morning mist,
like the dew that goes early away.
Have mercy on us and heal us;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
that we may press on to know you
and declare your steadfast love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Bishop The Lord enrich you with his grace,
and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble
and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers,
and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Cantor Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Music: James Davy (b. 1980)

The Collect

The bishop invites the people to pray in silence and then says

Heavenly Father,
who anointed your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit and with power
to bring to the world the blessings of your kingdom:
anoint your Church with the same Holy Spirit,
that we who share in his suffering and his victory
may bear witness to the gospel of salvation;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

The people sit for the readings and psalm.

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

This reading is read by the Reverend Claire Lording, chair of the house of clergy

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

The LORD said to Samuel, ‘How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.’ Samuel said, ‘How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.’ And the LORD said, ‘Take a heifer with you, and say, “I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.” Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.’ Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, ‘Do you come peaceably?’ He said, ‘Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.’ And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.’ But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.’ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, ‘Neither has the LORD chosen this one.’ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, ‘Neither has the LORD chosen this one.’ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The LORD has not chosen any of these.’ Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Are all your sons here?’ And he said, ‘There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.’ And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.’ He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, ‘Rise and anoint him;

for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward.

1 Samuel 16.1-13a

All For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Psalm

Cantor Thou spakest sometime in visions unto thy saints, and saidst :
I have laid help upon one that is mighty;
I have exalted one chosen out of the people.

I have found David my servant :
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

My hand shall hold him fast :
and my arm shall strengthen him.

The enemy shall not be able to do him violence :
the son of wickedness shall not hurt him.

I will smite down his foes before his face :
and plague them that hate him.

My truth also and my mercy shall be with him :
and in my Name shall his horn be exalted.

I will set his dominion also in the sea :
and his right hand in the floods.

He shall call me, Thou art my Father :
my God, and my strong salvation.

And I will make him my first-born :
higher than the kings of the earth.

My mercy will I keep for him for evermore :
and my covenant shall stand fast with him.

His seed also will I make to endure for ever :
and his throne as the days of heaven.

Psalm 89.20-30

New Testament Reading

This reading is read by the Reverend Claire Lording

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

2 Corinthians 3.17 – 4.12

For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

All

Gospel Reading

The people stand for this acclamation which heralds the Gospel reading

Archdeacon Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed.
All **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

Archdeacon The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

All Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

A dispute also arose among the twelve as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.'

Luke 22.24-30

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Renewal of Commitment to Ministry

The people stand.

Bishop My brothers and sisters, at his Last Supper, our Lord Jesus Christ gave his disciples a new commandment, that they should love one another, and he prayed that they might be one. He gave them an everlasting sign of his own love, in the sacrament of bread and wine. He consecrated himself to his Father's service, to be the high priest of the New Covenant. I invite you now to dedicate yourselves afresh to his service, as stewards of the mysteries of God and ministers of his grace.

The bishop addresses the readers and other lay ministers

Readers and other lay ministers, when you were commissioned, you undertook to be faithful in prayer and by word and example to minister to those for whom Christ died. Will you do all that is in your power to witness to God's love for his people?

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

The bishop addresses the deacons

Deacons, at your ordination, you received the yoke of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. Will you continue faithfully in this ministry, to build up God's people in his truth and serve them in his name?

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

The bishop addresses the priests

Priests, at your ordination to the priesthood, you took authority to watch over and care for God's people, to absolve and bless them in his name, to proclaim the gospel of salvation, and to minister the sacraments of his New Covenant. Will you continue as faithful stewards of the mysteries of God, preaching the gospel of Christ and ministering his holy sacraments?

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

The youngest deacon in the diocese, the Reverend Jess Fellows, addresses the bishops

Bishops, at your ordination to the episcopate, you received the gift of the Spirit, that you might lead the Church in mission, and send out ministers in Christ's name; that you might promote its unity, uphold its discipline, and guard its faith; and that you might teach and govern the people committed to your charge. Will you continue faithfully in this ministry, watching over Christ's own flock, and building them up in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace?

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

The youngest deacon addresses all the ministers

May the God of peace sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and he will accomplish it.

All **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

The bishop addresses the people

My brothers and sisters, pray for all who minister, that they may be constant in prayer and steadfast in faith, and serve God's people with joy.

All **Lord, hear us.**

Pray for your deacons, that the Lord may pour upon them the riches of his grace. Pray that he who has called them to his service may make them worthy of his calling.

All **Lord, hear us.**

Pray for your priests. Ask the Lord to bless them with the fullness of his love, that they may be faithful ministers of his word and sacrament, and lead his people in the way of salvation.

All **Lord, hear us.**

Pray for your bishops, that despite our unworthiness we may be faithful to the great trust that has been handed to us. Pray that we may become more like our Good Shepherd and great High Priest, the teacher and servant of us all, and so become more and more a sign of Christ's loving presence among you.

All **Lord, hear us.**

Pray for the families of those who minister, for their homes, and for all with whom they share their lives.

All **Lord, hear us.**

May the Lord in his love keep us ever close to him, and may he bring us all to the fullness of eternal life.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Bishop God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us
and, as a pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

The bishop places bread and wine on the altar.

The Blessing of the Oils

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

The bishop extends his hands over the oil for anointing the sick and the dying.

Bishop 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.
He 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 bless this oil,
that those who are anointed with it in your name
may be made whole in body, mind and spirit,
restored in your image, renewed in your love,
and serve you as sons and daughters in your kingdom.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

The bishop extends his hands over the oil for signing with the cross at baptism.

Bishop Blessed are you, sovereign God,
the protector of all who believe in you.
Your anointed Son overcame the powers of evil
when he was lifted high upon the cross.
By the power of your Spirit bless this oil,
that those who come to the waters of baptism
and are anointed with it in your name
may be strengthened in their fight
against sin, the world and the devil,
and be brought to share in Christ's victory.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

The bishop extends his hands over the oil of chrism.

Bishop Blessed are you, sovereign God and eternal Father,
upholding by your grace all who hear your call.
Under your Old Covenant
priests and kings were anointed to serve you
and in the fullness 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 bless this oil of chrism
that those who are anointed with it in your name
may be refreshed with 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.

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

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The bishop takes the bread and wine and says

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Pour upon the poverty of our love
and the weakness of our praise
the transforming fire of your presence.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Bishop The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Bishop It is indeed right and good
always and everywhere to give you thanks
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
By the outpouring of your Holy Spirit
you anointed him to be the servant of all
and ordained that he should enter into your kingdom through suffering.
And now he stands by us and pours out for our healing
the oil of consolation and the wine of renewed hope.
In your wisdom and love you anoint your holy people
to be a royal priesthood,
to share in Christ's suffering
and to reveal his glory to the world.
Therefore earth unites with heaven
to sing a new song of praise;
we too join with angels and archangels
as they proclaim your glory without end:

Cantor Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Bishop Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper,
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

All **Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Bishop And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The people kneel.

Bishop In our Saviour's presence and as he taught, so we 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The bishop breaks the consecrated bread, saying

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

The bishop invites the people to communion, saying

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The bishop receives communion and says to those intending to receive communion

The body of Christ. (or) The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.

Those intending to receive communion respond

Amen.

The people receive communion in one kind (consecrated bread only) from a standing station. All baptised members of churches in which God the Holy Trinity is worshipped are welcome to receive communion if they wish.

Those who are not receiving communion are warmly invited to come forward with those who are receiving communion, if they wish, to receive instead a silent prayer of blessing. Please hold something in your hands as a sign that you wish to receive a blessing, and the minister will bless you without touching you.

Those coming forward are asked to form a single line, socially distanced from one another, and return to their seats via the side-aisles, as directed by the stewards and vergers.

Cantor Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

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

Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

During the distribution, the cantor sings this anthem

I will sing of thy great mercies, O Lord my Saviour,
and of thy faithfulness evermore.

Words: Psalm 89.1

Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

Prayer after Communion

Bishop Let us pray.

The people stand.

Good Shepherd,
you have welcomed us at your table
and have anointed us with the oil of gladness;
may your goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our life,
that we may dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

All **Amen.**

All **You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ,
and you have made yourself known
in the breaking of the bread.
Abide with us, we pray,
that, blessed by your royal presence,
we may walk with you all the days of our life,
and at its end behold you
in the glory of the eternal Trinity,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Dismissal

The people remain standing for the blessing.

Bishop Our help is in the name of the Lord
All **who has made heaven and earth.**

All Blessed be the name of the Lord
now and for ever. Amen.

All The Father, whose glory fills the heavens,
cleanse you by his holiness
and send you to proclaim his word.
Amen.

All The Son, who has ascended to the heights,
pour upon you the riches of his grace.
Amen.

All The Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry.
Amen.

All And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

All Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

The ministers and people depart, while the organist plays Grand Chœur 'alla Handel' (op. 18 no. 1) by Alexandre Guilmant (1837–1911).

Supplies of the oils blessed during this service may be collected from the tables at the front of the nave. Please follow the direction of the stewards or vergers.