



Renewal of Commitment to Ministry

Maundy Thursday

9 April 2020

11:00

Officiant and Preacher

The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave OBE

Bishop of Lichfield

with the Rt Revd Clive Gregory, Bishop of Wolverhampton,
the Rt Revd Sarah Bullock, Bishop of Shrewsbury.

and the Rt Revd Jan McFarlane,
Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Lichfield

About This Service

The bishops in the Diocese of Lichfield normally gather together all clergy and lay ministers at the Cathedral on the morning of Maundy Thursday in order for us all to reaffirm our commitment to our various ministries, while also blessing and collecting oils for use over the coming year and celebrating the Eucharist together. Sadly, at this present time of crisis it is impossible for us to gather together or to bless the oils. Thanks to modern technology, however, it is possible for us to reaffirm our commitment to ministry together and this service will be streamed on our Diocesan Facebook page and website to enable us to do so.

We hope you will feel able to join in with the service from home. We especially hope that priests, deacons and lay ministers will feel able to join in with the renewal of commitment to ministry at the appropriate point in the service. As usual, everything that the congregation is invited to join in with is in **bold type**.

Unfortunately, for copyright reasons, we cannot provide printed versions of the hymns. However, these are well-known hymns, are in many hymn books and the texts are also available online, so we hope that you will be able to provide yourselves with copies and join in.

It will be a particular joy at this service to welcome Bishop Sarah to her first Reaffirmation of Commitment to Ministry in this diocese, and her first reaffirmation of her Episcopal vows since her consecration, and also to welcome Bishop Jan, who was commissioned last week as an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese.

Music at this service

The music in this service is kindly provided by Adrian and Esther Stone. Adrian is Vicar of Trentham.

The Gathering

The Bishop offers words of welcome and introduces the service.

He welcomes Bishop Sarah to her first Renewal of Commitment to ministry in this Diocese, and Bishop Jan, newly commissioned as Assistant Bishop.

The Greeting

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

Glory and kingship be his for ever and ever.

Grace, mercy and peace be with you.

And also with you.

We sing

Hymn: I will sing the wondrous story

The Bishop invites us to confess our sins

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
as in this most holy season we celebrate the Paschal Mystery
of our Lord's saving death and resurrection,
we gather in joy to celebrate the gifts of his Holy Spirit;
and to renew our commitment to the ministries we exercise
among the whole People of God.

In order to prepare ourselves to enter with the Lord
into that newness of life
which he invites us to share through our baptism,
let us call to mind our sins which led him to the Cross.

Silence is kept

O God, you know my foolishness
and my sins are not hidden from you:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Let not the flood overwhelm me nor the depths swallow me
up;
let not the pit shut its mouth upon me:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Hear me, O Lord, as your loving kindness is good;
turn to me as your compassion is great:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

The Bishop proclaims the words of absolution

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. **Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray

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 the same 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. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading 1 Samuel 3: 1-10

Read by Liz Jermy, food bank volunteer and recipient of a St Chad's Medal in March 2020

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." ' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

Thanks be to God.

We sing

PSALM: The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want (contemporary version)

New Testament Reading Luke 7: 36-50

Read by the Revd Dave Clark, Deacon and Curate in the Benefice of Berkswich and by the Revd Susan Myatt, Pastor to the Deaf Church

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment.

Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner.' Jesus spoke up and said to him, 'Simon, I have something to say to you.' 'Teacher,' he replied, 'speak.' 'A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he

cancelled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?' Simon answered, 'I suppose the one for whom he cancelled the greater debt.' And Jesus said to him, 'You have judged rightly.'

Then turning towards the woman, he said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.' Then he said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.' But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, 'Who is this who even forgives sins?' And he said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Bishop of Lichfield

We sing

Praise song: As the deer pants for the water

The Reaffirmation of Ministries

The Bishop says,

My brothers and sisters,
within the fellowship of the whole People of God
we have been called by God
to particular ministries within his Church,
to proclaim his Word,
to celebrate the Sacraments of the New Covenant,
and to serve Christ in service to our neighbour.
As we call to mind the promises made
when we were commissioned or ordained,
let us be silent together, giving thanks to God for his call to us,
and asking for the gifts and grace
of the Holy Spirit upon the whole Church.

A short silence is kept

Let us pray:

Blessed God,

**renew your calling of us day by day,
that we may love one another
as Christ has loved us,
and that the world may see in us
his power to heal and save,
through the same Jesus Christ,
our Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.**

I. The Ministry of Bishops

Rafael Jermy, a layperson from the Diocese, addresses the bishops:

At your ordination as bishops
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.**

II. The Ministry of Priests

The Bishop of Shrewsbury addresses the bishops and 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.**

III. The Ministry of Deacons

The Bishop of Wolverhampton addresses the bishops, priests and deacons:

At your ordination as a deacon,
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.**

IV. The Ministry of Readers and Other Licensed Lay Ministers

Bishop of Lichfield addresses the Readers and other licensed lay ministers:

When you were licensed,
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?

Readers and Lay Ministers **By the help of God, I will.**

The Bishop addresses all the clergy and ministers:

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

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

Prayers of Intercession

The Bishop addresses the assembly

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.
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

The Diocesan Secretary, Canon Julie Jones, leads the intercessions

We pray for our Readers and Licensed Lay Ministers,
that the Lord may grant them grace
to read his word and heed his calling,
that they may be pioneers for his gospel
and share in the nurture of his people.
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for our deacons,
that the Lord may pour upon them the riches of his grace.
We pray that he who has called them to his service
may make them worthy of his calling.
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for our priests.
We 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.
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for our bishops,
that they may be faithful
to the great trust that has been handed to them.
We pray that they 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 us.
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us

The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

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

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

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

We sing

FINAL HYMN: I cast my mind to Calvary

Conclusion

The Bishop concludes the service

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