**Renewal of Commitment**

**to Ministry**

**and the Blessing of the Oils**

**Maundy Thursday**

**1 April 2021**

**11:00**

**Officiant**

The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave OBE

*Bishop of Lichfield*

**Preacher**

The Rt Revd Matthew Parker

*Episcopal Vicar for the Stafford Episcopal Area.*

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 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 would not be safe for us to be together. Thanks to modern technology, however, it is possible for us to reaffirm our commitment to ministry together and bless the oils and this service will be streamed via Zoom. When it comes to the renewal of ministries, we invite you to ‘raise a hand’ in Zoom as you renew your commitment.

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 all the 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 Matthew Parker who is our preacher this morning and also in him joining us as the Episcopal Vicar for the Stafford Episcopal Area. We are looking forward soon to his ordination as the Bishop of Stafford, which will take place in the Archbishop’s Chapel at Lambeth Palace on Wednesday 14th April.

**Holy Oils**

Each year we use a blend of Zaytoun Fairtrade Olive Oil at this service. Palestine is the home of the olive tree, and this award-winning first cold-pressed extra virgin oil connects you with farmers whose ancestors have tended their trees by hand for countless generations. From small-scale farmers on the sun-drenched stone terraces on West Bank hills comes naturally organic and ethically sourced produce grown with wisdom, by people who know their trees both as old friends and as a lifeline for their children.

At Zaytoun, their fairly-traded produce comes exclusively from farmers they know, allowing them to support farming families as they build a sustainable future. Beyond conflict and upheaval runs a thread of vibrant culture, and they proudly share its gifts. Find out more at [www.zaytoun.org](http://www.zaytoun.org)

**Music at this service**

The music for the hymns and song in this service is kindly provided by Adrian and Esther Stone. Adrian is Vicar of Trentham. The Cathedral organ is played by Liam Condon, the Organ Scholar. Before the service will be played

‘Rockingham’, from the Choral Preludes (Set 1 – No.2)

*Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)*

**The Gathering**

**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.**

*The Bishop offers words of welcome and introduces the service.*

**Hymn:** **I will sing the wondrous story**

**1. I will sing the wondrous story**

**Of the Christ Who died for me.**

**How He left His home in glory**

**For the cross of Calvary.**

***Yes, I’ll sing the wondrous story***

***Of the Christ Who died for me,***

***Sing it with the saints in glory,***

***Gathered by the crystal sea.***

**2. I was lost, but Jesus found me,**

**Found the sheep that went astray,**

**Threw His loving arms around me,**

**Drew me back into His way.**

***Yes, I’ll sing the wondrous story***

***Of the Christ Who died for me,***

***Sing it with the saints in glory,***

***Gathered by the crystal sea.***

**3. Days of darkness still come o’er me,**

**Sorrow’s path I often tread,**

**But His presence still is with me;**

**By His guiding hand I’m led.**

***Yes, I’ll sing the wondrous story***

***Of the Christ Who died for me,***

***Sing it with the saints in glory,***

***Gathered by the crystal sea.***

**4. He will keep me till the river**

**Rolls its waters at my feet;**

**Then He’ll bear me safely over,**

**Where the loved ones I shall meet.**

***Yes, I’ll sing the wondrous story***

***Of the Christ Who died for me,***

***Sing it with the saints in glory,***

***Gathered by the crystal sea.***

Francis H. Rowley

*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 youin 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 16: 1-13a

*Read by the Revd Joe Fielder, Chaplain at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust.*

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.

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**New Testament Reading** Luke 22.24-30

*Read by the Rt Revd Jan McFarlane, Assistant Bishop.*

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

A dispute also arose among them 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.

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

*The Rt Revd Matthew Parker, Episcopal Vicar for the Stafford Episcopal Area*

**Praise song: As the deer pants for the water**

**1. As the deer pants for the water,**

**so my soul longs after You.**

**You alone are my heart’s desire**

**and I long to worship You.**

***You alone are my strength, my shield,***

***to You alone may my spirit yield.***

***You alone are my heart’s desire***

***and I long to worship You.***

**2. I want You more than gold or silver,**

**only You can satisfy.**

**You alone are the real joy-giver**

**and the apple of my eye.**

***You alone are my strength, my shield,***

***to You alone may my spirit yield.***

***You alone are my heart’s desire***

***and I long to worship You.***

**3. You’re my Friend and You’re my Brother,**

**even though You are a king.**

**I love You more than any other,**

**so much more than anything.**

***You alone are my strength, my shield,***

***to You alone may my spirit yield.***

***You alone are my heart’s desire***

***and I long to worship You.***

Martin Nystrom

© 1984 Restoration Music, Ltd

*Reproduced by permission of CCL 155215*

**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**

*The Revd Pamela Ogilvie, joint convenor of the Racial Justice & Inclusion Task Group*

 *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 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 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**

*The Bishop 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 of the Oils**

**NEH512** *Gonfalon Royal*

**1. Blessed by the sun, the olive tree**

**brought clusters of fair fruit to birth,**

**whose ripeness now we bring with prayer,**

**Lord Christ, redeemer of the earth.**

**2. Eternal king, look down and bless**

**the oil your servants offer here,**

**and may it be a lively sign**

**which all the powers of darkness fear.**

**3. From those washed in the sacred font**

**let Satan’s influence depart,**

**and when this oil the brow shall seal,**

**transforming grace invade the heart.**

**4. Our wounded nature thus be healed**

**by your anointing grace, O Lord;**

**in men and women so renewed**

**shall God’s own image be restored.**

**5. Lord Christ, the Father’s only Son,**

**who took our flesh in Mary’s womb,**

**give light to your anointed ones**

**and break the power of death’s dark tomb.**

**6. So may this joyous paschal feast,**

**the time when saving grace is given,**

**fill every Christian soul with praise,**

**and raise our minds from earth to heaven.**

Words: translated from the Latin text by Richard Rutt (1925-2011 )
© CJM Music Ltd

**Prayer over the Oils**

*The Bishop of Lichfield says*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.**

**The Oil for the Anointing of the Sick and Dying**

*The Bishop of Wolverhampton says*

Blessed are you, sovereign God, gentle and merciful.

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 sons and daughters in your kingdom.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

**The Oil for the Signing with the Cross at Baptism**

*The Bishop of Shrewsbury says*

Blessed are you, sovereign God, the protector of all who believe in you.

By the power of your Spirit may your blessing rest on those

who are anointed with this oil; as they come to the waters of baptism,

bring them to share in Christ’s victory.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

**The Oil of Chrism**

*The Bishop of Lichfield says*

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 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 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 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.**

**Hymn** - *Woodlands*

**1. Hope of our calling: hope through courage won;
By those who dared to share all Christ had done.
Saints of today, Christ’s banner now unfurled,
We bring his gospel to a waiting world.**

**2. Hope of our calling: hope with strength empowered,
Inspired by all that we have seen and heard;
This call is ours, for we are chosen too,
To live for God in all we say and do.**

**3. Hope of our calling: hope with grace outpoured,
From death’s despair the gift of life restored;
Our call to serve, to wash each others’ feet,
To bring Christ’s healing touch to all we meet.**

**4. Hope of our calling: hope by faith made bold;
To sow God’s righteousness throughout the world;
Bring peace from conflict, fruitfulness from weeds,
The kingdom’s harvest from a mustard seed.**

**5. Hope of our calling: Spirit-filled, unbound,
Old joys remembered and new purpose found,
Our call refreshed by sacrament and word,
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.**

© Ally Barrett

Reproduced by kind permission

**The Coming**

*R S Thomas (1913-2000)*

And God held in his hand
A small globe.  Look he said.
The son looked.  Far off,
As through water, he saw
A scorched land of fierce
Colour.  The light burned
There; crusted buildings
Cast their shadows: a bright
Serpent, a river
Uncoiled itself, radiant
With slime.
               On a bare
Hill a bare tree saddened
The sky.  Many People
Held out their thin arms
To it, as though waiting
For a vanished April
To return to its crossed
Boughs.  The son watched
Them.  Let me go there, he said.

*The Cathedral Organ Scholar, Liam Condon will play as people reflect and pray*

Chant de Paix (Song of Peace)

(no. 3 from "Neuf Pièces pour Grand-Orgue")

*Jean Langlais (1907-1991)*

Texts reproduced from Common Worship: Times and Seasons

are copyright © The Archbishops’ Council 2006.

Hymns are produced under CCL 155215 and One License.