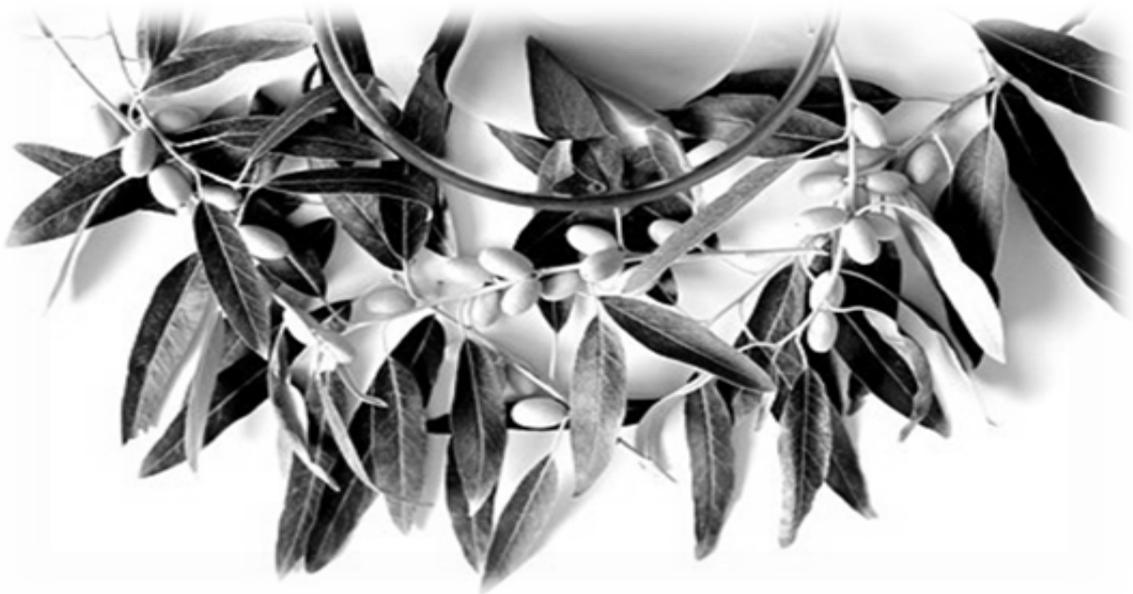




**A service
for the Blessing of the Oils
and the Renewal of Commitment to Ministry**



11h00 CET Wednesday of Holy Week - March 31 2021

President: The Rt. Revd. Dr. Robert Innes
Preacher: The Rt. Revd. Dr. David Hamid

Music Before the Service: Largo from Xeres by Handel
Liebster Jesu by JS Bach

During this service those involved in ministry will rededicate themselves, renewing their ministerial vows as lay ministers, deacons, priests and bishops.

In addition, three oils will be blessed, ready for use in the year ahead. The use of oils of the sick, of baptism and the perfumed oil of chrism is an ancient practice having biblical roots.

When Peter acknowledged Jesus as 'the Christ', he recognised him as the 'Anointed One' of God. Jesus was anointed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at his baptism in the river Jordan; through baptism, his true identity was revealed. Nowadays, on certain occasions, the sign of the cross is traced on people in oil, to signify union with Christ.

The oils are used in many ways, often for the setting apart of people and things for a special place in church life.

Individuals have kindly agreed to voice the responses on Zoom whilst everyone joins in whilst remaining muted online. Amongst those responding or reading are some who have arrived or taken on new roles in the Diocese in the past year including Rev'd Elizabeth Bendrey in Lisbon, Rev'd Canon Joanna Udal in Norway and Rev'd Jules Cave in Naples.

The Chair of the House of Clergy in the Diocesan Synod, Rev'd Tuomas Mäkipää will respond on behalf of the Priests.

Deacon Julia Bradshaw will respond on behalf of the Deacons.

Susan Boyd will respond on behalf of the Lay Readers.

Greeting

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

EB Amen.

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

EB Glory and kingship be his for ever and ever.

Grace, mercy and peace be with you.

EB And also with you.

Hymn

Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me
be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let
you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, and
companions on the road; we are here to
help each other walk the mile
and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you in the
night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak
the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when
you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

Richard Gillard (born 1953) Sung by St Martin's Voices

Prayers of Penitence

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

EB Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call.

Our love for you is like a morning cloud,

like the dew that goes away early.

Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement;

bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.

EB Amen.

Collect

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.

EB Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading

Read by Rev'd Canon Joanna Udal – Senior Chaplain, Norway

1 Samuel 16.1-13a.

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. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

This is the word of the Lord

EB Thanks be to God

Psalm

Read by Rev'd Elizabeth Bendrey – Chaplain at St George's, Lisbon

Psalm 89.19-29

Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said:

‘I have set the crown on one who is mighty,
I have exalted one chosen from the people.

I have found my servant David;
with my holy oil I have anointed him;
my hand shall always remain with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him.

The enemy shall not outwit him,
the wicked shall not humble him.

I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.

My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;
and in my name his horn shall be exalted.

I will set his hand on the sea
and his right hand on the rivers.

He shall cry to me, “You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!”

I will make him the firstborn,
the highest of the kings of the earth.

For-ever I will keep my steadfast love for him,
and my covenant with him will stand firm.

I will establish his line for ever,
and his throne as long as the heavens endure.

Reading

Read by Rev'd Nathaniel Nathaniel, Chaplain at St Clement's, Prague

2 Corinthians 3.17–4.12

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

EB Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Read by Rev'd Jules Cave Bergquist, Chaplain at Christ Church, Naples

Luke 22.24-30

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.

EB Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

EB Glory to you, O Lord.

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 Gospel of the Lord.

EB Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Bishop David Hamid

The Renewal of Commitment to Ministry

The Bishop:

Brothers and sisters,
before we offer to God the renewal of our commitment
to ministry in his Church,
and bless the oils that will be used throughout our diocesan family
as a sign of salvation and of the Spirit's indwelling power,
let us, both priests and people,
first recall with gratitude all those whom we here represent
— the great dispersal of the communities of the diocese
across a continent, and some beyond
— especially those who are sick,
those preparing for baptism and confirmation,
and those who are ready to be ordained
to the sacred ministry as deacons and priests.

May God unite our hearts and prayers with theirs
by the same Spirit whose presence we invoke.

God our loving Father,
pour out afresh upon our brothers and sisters in this diocese
the gifts of your Holy Spirit.
Open our ears to hear your Word, open our hearts to you in prayer, that
we may receive with ever deeper faith the Bread of Life
and be signs of your presence to the world of today.
Hear our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EB Amen.

The 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 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?

Lay Ministers (Susan Boyd): By the help of God, I will.

The Bishop addresses the 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 (Rev'd Deacon Julia Bradshaw): By the help of God, I will.

The Bishop addresses the 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 (Rev'd Tuomas Mäkipää): By the help of God, I will.

The Diocesan Secretary addresses the Bishops:

At your ordination as bishop
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?

Bishop: ***By the help of God, I will.***

The Diocesan Secretary 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.

Ministers (Rev'd Tuomas Mäkipää): **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

The Bishop addresses them:

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

Lay Ministers (Susan Boyd): **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.

Deacons (Rev'd Deacon Julia Bradshaw): **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.

Priests (Rev'd Tuomas Mäkipää): **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.

Rev'd Tuomas Mäkipää: Lord, hear us.

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

Rev'd Tuomas Mäkipää: 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.

Rev'd Tuomas Mäkipää: Amen.

The Blessing of the Oils

Anthem

God so Loved the World: *From Stainer's Crucifixion*
(during which the oils are prepared.)

God so loved the world,
God so loved the world,
That he gave his only begotten son,
That whoso believeth,
Believeth in him should not perish,
Should not perish
But have everlasting life.
For God sent not his Son
Into the world to condemn the world,
God sent not his Son
Into the world to condemn the world,
But that the world through him might be saved.
God so loved the world,...

sung by The Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Prayer over the oils

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

***A Reader (Susan Boyd):* The oil for the anointing of the sick and dying.**

The 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 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.

***(Susan Boyd):* Blessed be God for ever.**

***A Deacon (Rev'd Deacon Julia Bradshaw)* The oil for the signing with the cross at baptism.**

The 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 may your blessing rest on those who are anointed with this oil in your name; as they come to 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.

***Rev'd Deacon Julia Bradshaw:* Blessed be God for ever.**

A Priest (Rev'd Tuomas Mäkipää): The oil of chrism.

The 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 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.

Rev'd Tuomas Mäkipää: Blessed be God, our strength and our salvation, now and for ever. Amen.

Intercessions

Led by Rev'd Canon Ulla Monberg (Diocesan Director of Ministerial Development)

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

Blessing

Our help is in the name of the Lord
EB who has made heaven and earth.

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

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

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

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

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

Hymn

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
Be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
Be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord;
Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my Breastplate, my Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my whole Armour, be Thou my true Might;
Be Thou my soul's Shelter, be Thou my strong Tower,
O raise Thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Be Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart,
O high King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys, after vict'ry is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

English Version by Elizabeth Hull. Sung by St Martin's Voices

Sending Out

Go in the peace of Christ.

EB Thanks be to God.

Voluntary: Nimrod from the Enigma Variations - Elgar

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