



# Blessing of Holy Oils

Exploring the meaning  
through prayer and reflection



## Suggestions for using this resource

The following pages contain the prayers used to bless the Oil of the Sick and Catechumens, and to consecrate the Oil of Chrism during the Chrism Mass.

It is in the liturgy that the meaning of the church's ministries with the sick, of initiation, of ordination and consecration is revealed.

You are invited to pray these prayers and reflect on them, listening for the wisdom and understanding they carry.

When this prayer and reflection takes place in groups, the focus of the sharing is reflection and conversation listening for what God is revealing in the faith of our sisters and brothers.

The following **process** is suggested:

1. Prepare:

- Choose a blessing prayer.
- Create or enter a space conducive to prayer and reflection.
- Settle and ready yourself for prayer.

2. Pray the prayer you have chosen.

3. Reflect:

*What did you notice? What word, phrase or ritual action draws your attention? What meaning is God revealing to you?*

4. Faith Sharing:

*What is God revealing to us about our life as missionary disciples and members of the Church community?*

5. Connection and Conversion:

*To what action or commitment do you feel the Holy Spirit calling you?*

6. Be still:

*What prayer does this reflection lead you to make?*

If you are reflecting in a group, some people may like to share their prayer to bring the time of prayer and reflection to a close.

*Let us continue to pray for all people and ministries who will use or receive these holy oils.*

## The Holy Oils

Each year during Holy Week we come together as the Church of Maitland-Newcastle, led by our Bishop, to celebrate the Mass of the Chrism.

The **OIL OF CHRISM** is consecrated at this Mass. This Oil will be used for baptisms and confirmations, for ordinations of priests and bishops, and for the dedication of churches and altars.

During this Mass we also bless the **OIL OF CATECHUMENS**, mindful of our Elect and catechumens at whose initiation into the Church it will be used.

We also bless the **OIL OF THE SICK**, aware of the sick and suffering for whom it will bring comfort and strength.

## Blessing of the Oil of the Sick

Bishop: O God, Father of all consolation,  
who willed to heal the infirmities of the weak through your  
Son,  
listen favourably to the prayer of faith:  
send forth from the heavens, we pray,  
your Holy Spirit, the Paraclete,  
upon this oil in all its richness,  
which you have graciously brought forth from the verdant  
tree  
to restore the body,  
so that by your holy blessing ✠  
everyone anointed with this oil  
as a safeguard for body, soul, and spirit  
may be freed from all pain,  
all infirmity,  
and all sickness.  
May your holy oil, O Lord,  
be blessed by you for our sake  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Who live and reigns with you for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**



## Blessing of the Oil of Catechumens

Bishop: O God, strength and protection of your people,  
who have made the oil you created a sign of strength,  
graciously bless ✠ this oil,  
and grant courage to the catechumens  
who will be anointed with it,  
so that, receiving divine wisdom and power,  
they may understand more deeply  
the Gospel of your Christ,  
they may undertake with a generous heart  
the labours of the Christian life,  
and, made worthy of adoption  
as your sons and daughters,  
they may rejoice to be born anew and to live in your  
Church.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**





## Consecration of the Chrism

Bishop: Let us pray, dear brothers and sisters, to God the almighty Father, that he bless and sanctify this oil; may those who are signed with it outwardly be inwardly anointed and made worthy of divine redemption.



*The Bishop breathes over the Oil of Chrism. Then extending his arms over the Oil, he continues:*

O God, author of all growth and spiritual progress, receive in your goodness the grateful homage that the Church joyfully offers to you through our voice. For in the beginning you commanded the earth to bring forth fruit-bearing trees, among which olive trees would arise as providers of this most rich oil, so that their fruit might serve for sacred Chrism.



In the spirit of prophecy, David foresaw the sacraments of your grace and sang of the oil that would gladden our faces. After the world's offences were washed away by the flood, a dove announced the restoration of peace on earth with the olive branch, foreshadowing the gift to come.

In the last days all this has been clearly revealed:  
when every offence is removed through the waters of  
Baptism,  
the anointing with this oil makes our faces cheerful and  
serene.

You also commanded your servant Moses  
to make his brother Aaron a priest,  
by pouring this oil upon him  
after he had been washed in water.

Still greater dignity was added to this  
when your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
insisted that he be washed by John  
in the waters of the Jordan:  
you sent the Holy Spirit from on high  
in the likeness of a dove;  
you declared by the witness of the voice that followed,  
that you were well pleased in him,  
your Only Begotten Son;  
and you were seen to confirm clearly  
what the prophet David had foretold in song,  
that Christ would be anointed with the oil of gladness  
above his companions.

Therefore we beseech you, Lord:  
be pleased to sanctify with your ✠ blessing this oil in its  
richness,  
and to pour into it the strength of the Holy Spirit,  
with the powerful working of your Christ.  
From his holy name it has received the name of Chrism,  
and with it you have anointed your priests, prophets, kings,  
and martyrs.

May you confirm the Chrism you have created  
as a sacred sign of perfect salvation and life  
for those to be made new in the spiritual waters of Baptism.  
May those formed into a temple of your majesty

by the holiness infused through this anointing  
and by the cleansing of the stain of their first birth  
be made fragrant with the innocence of a life pleasing to  
you.

May those anointed with royal, priestly and prophetic dignity  
be clothed with the garment of an incorruptible gift  
in keeping with the Sacrament you have established.

May this oil be the Chrism of salvation  
for those born again of water and the Holy Spirit,  
and may it make them partakers of eternal life  
and sharers of heavenly glory.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**



## Acknowledgements

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