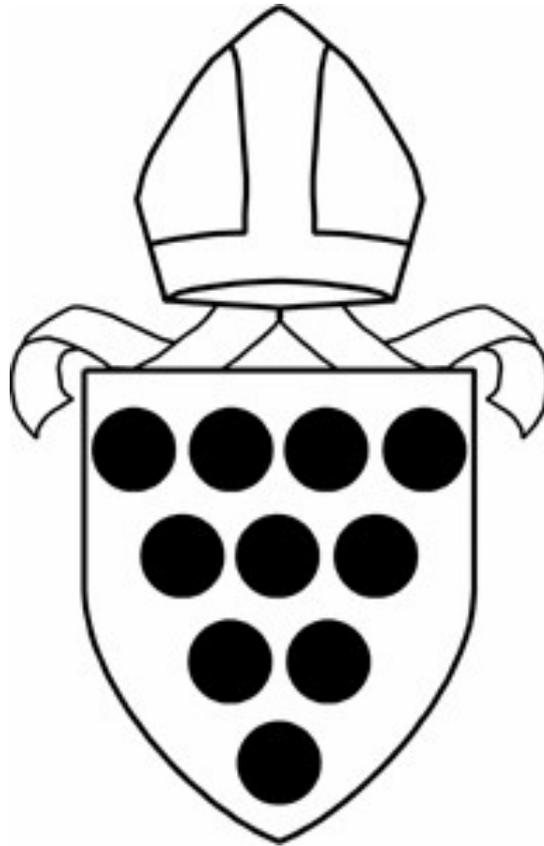


The Diocese of Worcester



The Ordination of Priests

Saturday 3 July 2021

The Feast of St Thomas the Apostle

Welcome to Worcester Cathedral



Welcome to this ordination of nine priests to serve in the diocese of Worcester. The service takes place in accordance with government and Church of England guidelines during the current pandemic.

Please take a moment before the service to pray for the candidates, the parishes where they will continue to serve, and their training incumbents:

Claire Billington, continuing to serve in the benefice of Peopleton and White Ladies Aston with Churchill and Spetchley and Upton Snodsbury and Broughton Hackett

Lindsey Coulthard, continuing to serve in the parish of St Stephen, Worcester

Jessica Fellows, continuing to serve in the parish of St Nicholas and All Saints with St Helen, Worcester

Foluso Enwerem, continuing to serve in the parish of Dudley

Jonathan Evans, continuing to serve in the parish of The Lye and Stambermill

Christopher Henson, continuing to serve in the Kidderminster West Team

Rosie Moss, continuing to serve in the parish of St Nicholas, Warndon

Kim Topham, continuing to serve in the benefice of Hagley and the parish of Clent

Carol Weston, continuing to serve in the Brierley Hill Team

The service is led by the bishop of Worcester, the Right Reverend Dr John Inge. The **preacher** is the Reverend Prebendary Chris Thorpe, vicar of Shifnal, Sheriffhales and Tong, with whom the candidates have spent the last four days in retreat.

The **setting** for the eucharist is that in E by Harold Darke (1888–1976), sung by the cathedral choir and conducted by the cathedral’s assistant director of music, Nicholas Freestone. The organ is played by the cathedral’s sub-assistant organist, Dr Ed Jones.

Please note that unless you are exempt, it is mandatory to wear a **face covering** in the cathedral.

Toilets are available in the cloisters. Please ask a steward for directions.

The service is being livestreamed. Please do not take **photographs** during the service or record the service in any way. Photographs of the candidates can be taken after the service outside the north porch.

Please also kindly ensure that your **mobile phone** does not disturb the service.

Communion will be distributed in one kind (consecrated bread only) from standing stations. All baptised members of churches in which God the Holy Trinity is worshipped are welcome to receive communion here. 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, holding something in their hands as a sign that they wish to receive a blessing. Those coming forward are asked to form a single line, socially distanced from those not in their own household or ‘bubble’, and return to their seats via the side-aisles, as directed by the stewards and vergers. Please speak to a steward or verger before the service if you wish to receive gluten-free consecrated bread, or to have communion brought to you in your seat.

As you leave the cathedral at the end of the service, a **collection** will be taken for the mission and ministry of the cathedral. This includes a contactless facility. UK taxpayers are kindly requested to use the gift-aid envelopes available on the stand, completing the front, which enables an additional 25% of their gift to be claimed from the government at no additional cost to the donor. Donations can also be made online via the cathedral website. Thank you for your generosity.

The service consists of five sections:

The Gathering (pages 6-8), in which the ministers process into the cathedral, the bishop greets the people and introduces the service, the candidates are presented, the choir sings an ancient hymn of praise, and the bishop leads a 'collect' or gathering prayer.

The Liturgy of the Word (pages 9-11), in which readings from the Bible are read, from the Old Testament and the New Testament, including the Gospels – that part of the Bible that records the words and works of Jesus. The readings are interspersed with a reflective psalm and a sermon, which teach the people about the Church's priestly vocation.

The Liturgy of Ordination (pages 12-19), in which the candidates make declarations and the people assent to their ordination and pledge to support them; the people pray for the candidates through a hymn invoking the Holy Spirit (the 'Veni Creator', sung by the choir) and through a litany of prayers; and the candidates are ordained priest by the laying on of the bishop's hands in a prayer which the bishop leads, in which the bishop of Dudley and a representative priest share, and in which all join in by saying 'Amen'. The candidates are also anointed with oil – a symbolic prayer for the Holy Spirit to be poured upon them for their ministry – and they are welcomed as priests, led by the dean as the senior priest of the diocese.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist (pages 19-25), in which words of peace are shared; the table is prepared; bread and wine are taken, blessed, broken and distributed, recalling the fourfold action of Jesus at his last supper with his disciples; and Jesus becomes present to the people as they receive his body or a prayer of blessing.

The Sending Out (pages 26-27), in which the new priests are sent out with the Bible as a sign of the gospel which they are to proclaim, and all the people are sent out with a blessing from the bishop to fulfil their own ministry – the priesthood of all believers.

Before this service, the candidates have made this declaration of assent

Preface

The Church of England is part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, worshipping the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation. Led by the Holy Spirit, it has borne witness to Christian truth in its historic formularies, the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion, the *Book of Common Prayer* and the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons. In the declaration you are about to make, will you affirm your loyalty to this inheritance of faith as your inspiration and guidance under God in bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation and making him known to those in your care?

Declaration of Assent

I, A B, do so affirm, and accordingly declare my belief in the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds and to which the historic formularies of the Church of England bear witness; and in public prayer and administration of the sacraments, I will use only the forms of service which are authorised or allowed by Canon.

The candidates have also sworn the oath of allegiance to the Queen and the oath of canonical obedience to the bishop.

The Gathering

The people stand at the entry of the ministers, and the choir sings verses of the hymn 'Gracious God, your love has found us'.

The Greeting

Bishop
All

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

All

There is one body and one spirit.
There is one hope to which we were called;

All

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all.

All

Peace be with you
and also with you.

The people sit.

The bishop introduces the service

God calls his people to follow Christ, and forms us into a royal priesthood, a holy nation, to declare the wonderful deeds of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

The Church is the Body of Christ, the people of God and the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit. In baptism the whole Church is summoned to witness to God's love and to work for the coming of his kingdom.

To serve this royal priesthood, God has given particular ministries. Priests are ordained to lead God's people in the offering of praise and the proclamation of the gospel. They share with the bishop in the oversight of the Church, delighting in its beauty and rejoicing in its well-being. They are to set the example of the Good Shepherd always before them as the pattern of their calling. With the bishop and their fellow presbyters, they are to sustain the community of the faithful by the ministry of word and sacrament, that we all may grow into the fullness of Christ and be a living sacrifice acceptable to God.

The Presentation

The archdeacon of Worcester reads the names of those to be ordained and where they are to serve, first saying

Bishop, I present these persons to be ordained to the office of priest in the Church of God.

When the candidates have been presented, the bishop asks the Diocesan Director of Ordinands these questions

Have those whose duty it is to know these ordinands and examine them found them to be of godly life and sound learning?

DDO They have.

Do they believe them to be duly called to serve God in this ministry?

DDO They do.

Will you confirm that the ordinands have taken the necessary oaths and made the Declaration of Assent?

DDO They have duly taken the oath of allegiance to the Sovereign and the oath of canonical obedience to the bishop. They have affirmed and declared their belief in 'the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds and to which the historic formularies of the Church of England bear witness'.

The bishop turns to the candidates and says

Do you believe that God is calling you to this ministry?

Candidates **I do so believe.**

The people stand.

Gloria in Excelsis

Choir Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace,
good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ:
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art Most High
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

The Collect

Bishop Let us pray for these ordinands, and for the ministry of the whole
people of God.

God our Father, Lord of all the world,
through your Son you have called us into the fellowship
of your universal Church:
hear our prayer for your faithful people
that in their vocation and ministry
each may be an instrument of your love,
and give to your servants now to be ordained
the needful gifts of grace;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

The people sit for the readings and psalm.

Old Testament Reading

This reading is read by the Reverend Philip Morton, vicar of East Vale and Avon Villages and associate diocesan director of ordinands

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

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,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion –
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

Isaiah 61.1-3

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

Psalm

Choir The merciful goodness of the Lord endureth for ever and ever
upon them that fear him :
and his righteousness upon children's children;
Even upon such as keep his covenant :
and think upon his commandments to do them.
The Lord hath prepared his seat in heaven :
and his kingdom ruleth over all.

- praise the Lord, ye angels of his, ye that excel in strength :
ye that fulfil his commandment,
and hearken unto the voice of his words.
- praise the Lord, all ye his hosts :
ye servants of his that do his pleasure.
- speak good of the Lord, all ye works of his,
in all places of his dominion :
praise thou the Lord, O my soul.

Psalm 103.17-end

New Testament Reading

This reading is read by the Reverend Andy Todd, priest-in-charge of St Stephen's, Barbourne, chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance and associate diocesan director of ordinands

A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians.

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

‘At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.’

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

2 Corinthians 5.17 – 6.2

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

Gospel Reading

*The people stand for this acclamation which heralds the Gospel reading,
read by the archdeacon of Dudley*

Reader Alleluia, alleluia.
I chose you and appointed you, says the Lord,
that you should go and bear fruit that shall last. *cf John 15.16*
All **Alleluia.**

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

John 20.19-23

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

Sermon

The Liturgy of Ordination

The Declarations

The candidates stand before the bishop.

Bishop

Priests are called to be servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent. With their bishop and fellow ministers, they are to proclaim the word of the Lord and to watch for the signs of God's new creation. They are to be messengers, sentinels and stewards of the Lord; they are to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for his family, to search for his children in the wilderness of this world's temptations, and to guide them through its confusions, that they may be saved through Christ for ever. Formed by the word, they are to call their hearers to repentance and to declare in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins.

With all God's people, they are to tell the story of God's love. They are to baptise new disciples in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and to walk with them in the way of Christ, nurturing them in the faith. They are to unfold the Scriptures, to preach the word in season and out of season, and to declare the mighty acts of God. They are to preside at the Lord's table and lead his people in worship, offering with them a spiritual sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. They are to bless the people in God's name. They are to resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor, and intercede for all in need. They are to minister to the sick and prepare the dying for their death. Guided by the Spirit, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all God's people, that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.

The bishop addresses the candidates directly

We trust that long ago you began to weigh and ponder all this, and that you are fully determined, by the grace of God, to devote yourself wholly to his service, so that as you daily follow the rule and teaching of our Lord and grow into his likeness, God may sanctify the lives of all with whom you have to do.

And now, in order that we may know your mind and purpose, you must make the declarations we put to you.

Do you accept the Holy Scriptures as revealing all things necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?

Candidates **I do so accept them.**

Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading Holy Scripture, and in all studies that will deepen your faith and fit you to bear witness to the truth of the gospel?

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

Will you lead Christ's people in proclaiming his glorious gospel, so that the good news of salvation may be heard in every place?

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

Will you faithfully minister the doctrine and sacraments of Christ as the Church of England has received them, so that the people committed to your charge may be defended against error and flourish in the faith?

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

Will you, knowing yourself to be reconciled to God in Christ, strive to be an instrument of God's peace in the Church and in the world?

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

Will you endeavour to fashion your own life and that of your household according to the way of Christ, that you may be a pattern and example to Christ's people?

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

Will you work with your fellow servants in the gospel for the sake of the kingdom of God?

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

Will you accept and minister the discipline of this Church, and respect authority duly exercised within it?

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

Will you then, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you, to make Christ known among all whom you serve?

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

The people stand and the candidates turn and face them.

Bishop Brothers and sisters, you have heard how great is the charge that these ordinands are ready to undertake, and you have heard their declarations. Is it now your will that they should be ordained?

All **It is.**

Will you continually pray for them?

All **We will.**

Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

All **We will.**

The candidates turn back to face the bishop, who continues

In the name of our Lord, we bid you remember the greatness of the trust that is now to be committed to your charge. Remember always with thanksgiving that the treasure now to be entrusted to you is Christ's own flock, bought by the shedding of his blood on the cross. It is to him that you will render account for your stewardship of his people.

You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength, but only by the grace and power of God. Pray therefore that your heart may daily be enlarged and your understanding of the Scriptures enlightened.

Pray earnestly for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The people kneel or sit to pray, and silence is kept.

The Litany

The choir sings the 'Veni Creator', and this litany is led by the precentor

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,
for the welfare of the Holy Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For all the members of the Church in their vocation and ministry,
that they may serve God in truth and love,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For John our bishop, for Martin, bishop of Dudley,
and for all bishops, presbyters and deacons,
that they may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For Claire, Lindsey and Jessica,
Foluso, Jonathan and Christopher,
Rosie, Kim and Carol,
called to be priests in God's Church,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For the mission of the Church,
that in faithful witness we may proclaim the gospel of reconciliation
to the ends of the earth,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For the unity of the Church,
that we may be one in Christ, according to his will,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are lost and for those who have strayed,
that they may return to the way of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick and suffering,
for the aged and infirm,
for the lonely and neglected,
and for all who remember and care for them,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the hungry,
for the homeless and the oppressed,
for all prisoners and captives,
and for our brothers and sisters who are persecuted for their faith,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For Elizabeth our Queen,
for the leaders of the nations,
and for all in authority,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For ourselves,
for grace to repent and amend our lives,
that we may be pardoned and absolved from all our sins,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Remembering all who have gone before us in faith,
and in communion with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Thomas,
St Dunstan, St Oswald, St Wulfstan and all the saints,
we commit ourselves, one another,
and our whole life to Christ our God;

All **to you, O Lord.**

The Ordination Prayer

The choir quietly chants an invocation of the Holy Spirit while the bishop stretches out his hands towards the candidates and says

We praise and glorify you, almighty Father,
because in your infinite love you have formed throughout the world
a holy people for your own possession,
a royal priesthood,
a universal Church.

We praise and glorify you
because you have given us your only Son Jesus Christ,
the image of your eternal and invisible glory,
the firstborn of all creation and head of the Church.

We praise and glorify you that by his death he has overcome death;
and that, having ascended into heaven, he has given his gifts abundantly,
to equip your holy people for the work of ministry,
for the building up of the body of Christ.

And now we give you thanks
that you have called these your servants,
whom we ordain in your name,
to share as priests in the ministry of the gospel of Christ,
the Apostle and High Priest of our faith,
and the Shepherd of our souls.

Therefore, Father, through Christ our Lord we pray:

Here the bishop lays his hands on the head of each candidate, saying

Send down the Holy Spirit on your servant N
for the office and work of a priest in your Church.

When the bishop has laid hands on all of them, the prayer continues

Through your Spirit, heavenly Father,
give these your servants grace and power
to proclaim the gospel of your salvation
and minister the sacraments of the new covenant.
Renew them in holiness,
and give them wisdom and discipline
to work faithfully with those committed to their charge.

In union with their fellow servants in Christ,
may they reconcile what is divided,
heal what is wounded
and restore what is lost.

May they declare your blessings to your people;
may they proclaim Christ's victory over the powers of darkness,
and absolve in Christ's name those who turn to him in faith;
so shall a people made whole in Christ
offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you,
our God and Father,

The chant ceases as the bishop concludes

to whom, with the Son and the Holy Spirit,
belong glory and honour, worship and praise, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

The people sit.

The bishop of Dudley anoints each newly ordained priest, saying

N, may God,
who anointed the Christ with the Holy Spirit at his baptism,
anoint and empower you to reconcile and bless his people.

The newly ordained priests vest in their stoles.

The Welcome

The dean of Worcester says to the newly ordained priests

God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

All **We welcome you as ambassadors for Christ:
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.**

The people welcome the newly ordained with applause.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Peace

The people stand.

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 us the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

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

The people remain standing.

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The choir sings the following motet as the table is prepared

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in mine heart, and in my thinking;
God be at my end, and in my departing.

*Words: Sarum Primer
Music: John Rutter (b. 1945)*

The bishop takes the bread and wine and says

Heavenly Father,
as we set before you these gifts of bread and wine,
bless also the gift of our hearts and minds
as we offer our lives in your service;
for Jesus Christ's sake.

All

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The people remain standing for the eucharistic prayer, in which the choir, on behalf of the people, sings the opening responses

Bishop The Lord be with you
Choir and also with you.

Choir Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

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

Bishop It is indeed right and good,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through your Son Jesus Christ, our great high priest.
He was lifted up for us on the cross
that he might reveal your glory and draw all people to himself.
You exalted him to your right hand on high
and through your Holy Spirit you sent upon your people
a rich diversity of gifts.
From this royal priestly people you raise up ministers
to proclaim your word,
to care for your people
and to be the stewards of your holy mysteries.
You call them to serve the world your Son redeemed
and build up his body the Church to be his bride.
Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

Choir Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Amen.
Blessed is he that cometh 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.

All Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

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 Mary the Mother of our Lord and God,
St Thomas, St Dunstan, St Oswald, St Wulfstan 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.

All **Amen.**

The people kneel and silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer

Bishop As our Saviour 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 those not of their own household or 'bubble', and return to their seats via the side-aisles, as directed by the stewards and vergers.

Choir

O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

During the distribution, the choir sings this anthem

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, be 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 and thou only the first in my heart;
 O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
 still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Words: Irish, 8th-century, tr. Mary Byrne (1880–1931)

Music: Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Prayer after Communion

The bishop invites the people to stand for these prayers

Bishop Lord God, heavenly Father,
grant to your Church today
the faith of her apostles,
the hope of her martyrs
and the love of her Lord,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

All **We thank you, gracious Father,
for welcoming your children to feast in your kingdom;
by your love unite us
and with your Spirit send us,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Sending Out

The Giving of the Bible

The bishop of Dudley gives the Bible to each newly ordained priest, saying

Receive this book,
as a sign of the authority which God has given you this day
to preach the gospel of Christ
and to minister his holy sacraments.

The Blessing

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

God who has called you is faithful.

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

All **Amen.**

May Christ, who has ascended to the heights,
pour upon you the riches of his grace.

All **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry.

All **Amen.**

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

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Bishop Go in the light and peace of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**

The bishop leads the newly ordained priests through the cathedral to sustained applause, while the organist plays Toccata in D by Marcel Lanquetuit (1894–1985).

Please leave the cathedral at the direction of the stewards and vergers, taking this order of service away with you, and continue to pray for all those who have been ordained today.

As you leave the cathedral, a collection will be taken for the mission and ministry of the cathedral. This includes a contactless facility. UK taxpayers are kindly requested to use the gift-aid envelopes available on the stand, completing the front, which enables an additional 25% of their gift to be claimed from the government at no additional cost to the donor. Donations can also be made online via the cathedral website.

Photographs with the newly ordained priests may be taken outside the north porch in College Yard.

I recall a moment when I chose God – I turned to Jesus – yet really this was simply the beginning of a life-long realisation that my ‘choosing’ was only possible because God had first chosen me. God chose to create me, to love me, and to invest in me – to the point even of dying for me. The call to ministry is founded there: in acknowledging God’s gracious ‘Yes’ to us, and in doing so to echo our own ‘Yes’ to God by way of response.

Of course, we do not know the details of where that ‘Yes’ will lead. But we do know that it involves the privilege of continuing God’s work on earth, of being Christ’s body – his hands, his feet, his heart – wherever we find ourselves, so that the love of God may be tangible and accessible to everyone. This is the adventure of serving as Jesus served. *Everyone* who follows Jesus is chosen and called in this way.

Don’t be afraid to ask others for help, but don’t be afraid to jump in wherever you are – at work, in school, at social events, with family – and take the risk of ministering the light and love of Christ.

The Most Reverend Justin Welby, archbishop of Canterbury