

PASTORAL INTRODUCTION

The inauguration of a priest's new ministry is always a significant occasion in the life of our diocese. For the priest it is the opening of a fresh phase of work, while for the parishioners it is the beginning of the next chapter in the worship and life of the whole area. It is right, therefore, for the bishop to gather the priest and the people together for this service, along with colleagues and ecumenical representatives from all over the deanery, so that they may offer themselves afresh to God for the work of the Gospel, ask for his grace and strength in fulfilling his work and mission, and commit themselves to the task of shared ministry in Christ's name.

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NOTES ABOUT THIS SERVICE

With the consent of the archdeacon, the bishop may invite the rural dean to conduct those parts of the service that are assigned to the archdeacon.

The entrance procession should be assembled in this order –

Crucifer

(Acolytes)

Choir

Visiting Readers

Diocesan Readers

Visiting Clergy

Diocesan Clergy

Rural Dean & Lay Co-chair

Archdeacon

Churchwardens

Bishop

Bishop's Chaplain

THE GATHERING

All stand and sing the opening hymn as the procession enters the church

GREETING

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

All Amen.

Bishop Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you:

All and also with you.

All remain standing while the bishop offers some informal words of greeting to the congregation, including the new parish priest's family and friends, as well as those who have travelled from the priest's previous parishes: the bishop also thanks those who have maintained the Church's ministry and nurtured the parishioners during the interregnum

INTRODUCTION

Bishop Christ is head of the Church; he alone is the source of all Christian ministry. Through the ages it is Christ who has called men and women to lives of service. By the Holy Spirit, all who believe and are baptised receive a ministry to proclaim Jesus as Saviour and Lord, and to love and serve the people among whom they live and work. In Christ we are to bring redemption, to reconcile and to make whole. After his resurrection and ascension Christ gave gifts abundantly to the Church. Some he made apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers; to equip God's people for their work of ministry and to build up the body of Christ. We are to be salt for the earth; we are to be light to the world. Today we have come together in the presence of almighty God to inaugurate *N's* ministry in *(this/these)* parish(es), and to ask God's blessing upon *(him/her)*.

COLLECT

Bishop As we stand in God's presence, let us pray. *(Silence may be kept)*
Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for *N* and for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry each may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; 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 INAUGURATION

All sit

STATEMENT OF NEED

The lay co-chair of the deanery synod reads an extract from the benefice statement of need, which was used to help identify the most suitable candidate for the vacant post

PRESENTATION

The patron¹, standing with the new parish priest before the bishop, says

Right Reverend Father in God, I present to you the Reverend *N*, who served until recently as *(curate/team/vicar/rector/priest-in-charge)* of *N* in the diocese of *N*, and I ask you now to *(institute/collate)* *(him/her)* as rector of *N*.

Bishop Thank you, I am pleased to accept your presentation.

¹ *Or a representative of the patron, unless the bishop is the patron, in which case these sentences are omitted and the presentation begins with the following statement by an elected parish representative*

The new parish priest turns to face the congregation, and one of the elected parish representatives says

Right Reverend Father in God, I confirm that the parish representatives have shared fully in the appointment process, and that we assent to the (institution/collation) of *N*.

The new parish priest turns back to face the bishop

Bishop *N*, do you believe that God has called you to serve Christ in (this/these) parish(es)?

Priest I believe that God has called me to serve Christ here.

Bishop Churchwardens and people of (this/these) parish(es), I commend *N* to you. Will you accept (his/her) ministry?

All We will.

Bishop *N*, will you share your ministry with the people of (this/these) benefice(s): will you lead, encourage and collaborate with all God's people in building up the Body of Christ?

Priest With God's help, I will.

Bishop People of (this/these) benefice(s), will you work together and share your ministry with *N*, and support and encourage (him/her) in the leadership of your congregation(s)?

People With God's help, we will.

The bishop addresses the rural dean and the lay co-chair, saying

N & N, as the principal officers of the *N* Deanery Synod, will you do all in your power to establish *N* in (his/her) new ministry in this deanery and to support (him/her) in the years to come?

Rural dean & lay co-chair We will gladly do so, the Lord being our helper.

All remain seated

PREFACE

Bishop 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

Priest I, *N*, 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 authorized or allowed by Canon.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Holding a copy of the New Testament in his/her right hand, the priest turns to face the congregation and says

I, *N*, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, her heirs and successors, according to law: so help me God.

OATH OF CANONICAL OBEDIENCE

Still holding the New Testament, the priest turns back to face the bishop and continues

I, *N*, do swear that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Bishop of Hereford and his successors, in all things lawful and honest; so help me God.

The priest signs the declaration and oaths, and then returns to kneel before the bishop

SUPPLICATION

Bishop The pastoral care of God's people is a solemn trust and a great gift, so let us pray for *N* as *s/he* comes to minister among you that, strengthened by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, *s/he* may be equipped for the work that lies ahead.

All kneel and pray in silence for God's blessing upon the priest's new ministry

After the time of silent prayer, all remain kneeling and sing softly this (or another suitable) hymn

O thou who camest from above,
The pure celestial fire to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love
On the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn
With inextinguishable blaze,
And trembling to its source return
In humble prayer, and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
To work, and speak, and think for thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up thy gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat,
Till death thy endless mercies seal,
And make my sacrifice complete.

HEREFORD

Charles Wesley 1707–88

Samuel Sebastian Wesley 1810–76

All remain kneeling while the bishop says

*^{*1} at this point the bishop may anoint
the priest with the oil of Chrism*

Almighty God, anoint^{*1} your servant *N* with the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit, that in all things *s/he* may know your will and be motivated to obey it. Help (*him/her*) to be faithful to (*his/her*) ordination vows; and encourage (*him/her*) daily in the work and witness that you desire; through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

All sit

THE INSTITUTION / COLLATION

*The priest remains kneeling before the bishop, who reads aloud the deed of **institution or collation***

DELIVERY OF THE SPIRITUALITIES

The bishop hands the document that he has just read to the priest, saying

N, receive this cure of souls, which is both mine and yours, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

All remain seated while the bishop stands to bless the priest, saying

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

WELCOME

All stand as the bishop invites the priest to stand at his side, and says

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I present to you *N*, duly *(instituted/collated)* as your new rector.

All We welcome you, we welcome you. *(Applause may follow)*

All remain standing and sing

HYMN

During this hymn the rector may be welcomed by representatives of the diocese, the deanery, the parish(es), and other local congregations

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

All sit

READING

The rector reads a suitable passage from the Bible, and at the end may say

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Bishop

All stand and sing

HYMN

All remain standing

THE INDUCTION

ISSUING OF THE MANDATE

The bishop turns to the archdeacon and says

Archdeacon *N*, I have admitted *N* to the cure of souls in *(this/these)* parish(es): I now ask you to induct *(him/her)*, and to support and defend *(him/her)* in *(his/her)* ministry.

The bishop may move to a seat in the sanctuary

DELIVERY OF THE TEMPORALITIES

All remain standing and turn towards the church door, as two of the churchwardens lead the archdeacon and the new incumbent to the door, where the archdeacon places the incumbent's hand upon the key or the handle, saying

By the authority of our Right Reverend Father in God, I, *N*, induct you *N*, into the real and actual possession of the rectory and the church(es) of *(this/these)* benefice(s). The Lord preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore. *Amen.*

The incumbent tolls the church bell to mark his/her possession of the benefice(s)

The churchwardens then lead the archdeacon and the incumbent back to the chancel

INSTALLATION

As an indication that the incumbent does not bear the weight of pastoral responsibility alone, up to four representatives of the churchwardens and/or ministry team may stand on either side of the rector during the installation

All remain standing while the archdeacon says

As we stand in God's presence, let us pray.

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, in your divine providence you have appointed various ministries within your Church: pour out your grace upon all who are called to any office and ministry in Christ's name, and especially upon *N*, as *s/he* takes up (*his/her*) new commission as rector of (*this/these*) parish(es); fill *N* and the whole people of God in this place with the fire of your love and clothe them with holiness of life, that together they may faithfully serve you to your great glory and for the benefit of your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The archdeacon places the rector in his/her stall and says

N, as I place you in this stall, accept with joy your new commission to preach the living Word of God, to administer the Sacraments of eternal life, and to guard and strengthen the flock that has been committed to your charge. May God keep you in his care; may Christ empower you with his love, and may the Holy Spirit lead you in the ways of truth and peace, this day and for evermore. *Amen.*

All sit

THIS SECTION IS USED WHEN APPROPRIATE

ACT OF COMMITMENT TO SHARED MINISTRY

In those parishes where there is established a group ministry or local ministry team or local ecumenical project or there are other licensed ministers, there shall follow this act of commitment to and from the existing group/team

*All remain seated while members of the **group/team** gather around the rector*

Archd'n Members of the **N (group ministry/ministry team)**, as you receive your new rector, I invite you to renew your calling to work collaboratively to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in this place.

Archd'n Lord Jesus Christ, you emptied yourself taking the form of a servant.

Team Through your love, make us servants of one another.

Archd'n Lord Jesus Christ, for our sake you became poor.

Team May our lives and gifts enrich the life of your world.

Archd'n The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Team By his mercy we present our whole lives to God as a living sacrifice.

Archd'n Though many, we form one body in Christ.

Team We belong to one another.

Archd'n By God's grace we have different gifts.

Team We will use them in faith.

Archd'n Rejoice in hope, stand firm in trouble, be constant in prayer.

Team Filled with his Spirit we will serve the Lord.

Archd'n Holy and living God, you call men and women to bring us your creative and redeeming Word: equip the members of this team for their shared ministry and give them the gifts of grace they need to support and encourage one another, that your people may be served and your holy name be praised.

Amen.

An anthem or a hymn may be sung, during which those taking part in the next section of the service move to their appointed places

THE CELEBRATION OF NEW PARTNERSHIP

As the final part of the service is a celebration of the new partnership in worship, ministry, and mission of the priest and the people, symbols are presented to the rector by representatives of the parish(es) at the chancel step or some other convenient place

PRESENTATION OF SYMBOLS

A Bible is presented by a parishioner who says

St Paul says to us: 'Preach the Word, be fervent, in season and out of season, correct, rebuke, encourage with the utmost patience in teaching.'

N, receive this Bible:

All love the scriptures and always be faithful in proclaiming the Word of God among us.

A large jug of water is presented by a parishioner who says

Jesus tells us: 'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'

N, receive this water:

All and rejoice to bring new Christians to baptism.

Bread and wine are presented by two parishioners, who say

(i) St Paul says to us: 'The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?'

(ii) *N*, receive this bread and wine:

All and lead us when we celebrate the breaking of bread.

Rector I thank you for these tokens of Christ's ministry in his Church, through which the Holy Spirit strengthens our communion with the Lord and with one another, as we work together for the building up of God's kingdom among us.

The symbols are placed upon the holy table or some other appropriate place

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

(An alternative form of intercession may be substituted)

Rector Let us thank God for our fellowship in the universal Church and for our Christian heritage; for those who down the ages have worshipped in our church(es) and served God by their work and witness; let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.
(Brief silence)

Leader We give thanks for the gifts God gives to us and pray:
for guidance and grace in the ministry the Spirit calls us to share; for our churchwardens and church councillors; for all church members in their various calling; that all we say and do may proclaim God's kingdom, and build up the Body of Christ among us; let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.
(Brief silence)

Leader We give thanks for our community of families and pray:
for every home here, for children, young people and adults, that we may grow together in the way of faith, and that each may learn the secret of God's love; let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.
(Brief silence)

Leader We give thanks for those people in our community who serve our needs and pray:
for those who bear responsibility in government, for all who work in education and our local schools, for those in farming, commerce and industry, and for those who work here, that we may deal justly, honour one another, and seek the common good; let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.
(Brief silence)

Leader We give thanks for all who minister to those who are in trouble and pray: for all in distress, for the sick and suffering, those who mourn and those without hope, for all who minister to them; let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.
(Brief silence)

Rector Gracious Father, strengthen us to carry forward the work of Christ,
All that we and all who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

either

Rector As our Saviour taught us, 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.

or

Rector Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All 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.

All sit while the rector gives out the notices and then announces the final hymn

All stand and sing

HYMN

During this hymn a collection will be taken for the bishop's discretionary fund, which is used to further pastoral care and mission

All remain standing

THE SENDING OUT

Bishop Our help is in the name of the Lord:

All Who has made heaven and earth.

Bishop Blessed be the name of the Lord:

All Now and for ever. Amen.

Bishop Almighty God, who for the salvation of the world gives to his people many gifts and ministries to the advancement of his glory, stir up in you the gifts of his grace, sustain each one of you in your own ministry; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Rector Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

All remain standing while the procession leaves the church in this order

Crucifer

(Acolytes)

Choir

Readers

Clergy

Rural Dean & Lay Co-chair

Rector

Archdeacon

Churchwardens

Bishop

Bishop's Chaplain