



**BLACKBURN
CATHEDRAL**

Diocesan Chrism Eucharist
with the
Renewal of
Commitment to Ministry
and
Blessing of Oils

Thursday, 17 April 2025 11.00am

The President and Preacher is
The Rt Revd Philip North
Bishop of Blackburn

The Deacon is
Revd Cornelius Ashgar

The Subdeacon is
Diane Warner

The Deacons of the Oils are
Revd Danny Abraham
Revd Pippa Daniels
Revd Clare McEnergy

The Organist is
John Hosking
Organist In Residence

The Cathedra Voices are conducted by
John Robinson
Director of Music

The Setting is
The Gloria from A Blackburn Mass by James Davy
Stanford in C and F

Before the service, the congregation is welcomed by
The Dean
The Very Reverend Peter Howell-Jones

Order of procession:
LLMs
Licensed Clergy
Residentiary Canons & Members of Chapter
Archdeacon of Lancaster
Dean of Blackburn
Bishop Jill and Bishop Joseph
Subdeacon
Deacon
Bishop Philip

The Gathering

Please stand as the ministers enter

Processional

CRUCIFER (NICHOLSON)



*Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

Saved by the cross whereon their Lord was slain,
earth's fallen children their lost home regain:

Refrain

From north and south, from east and west they raise
in growing unison their song of praise:

Refrain

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us unto thee:

Refrain

Let every race and every language tell
of him who saves our souls from death and hell:

Refrain

From farthest regions let them homage bring,
and on his cross adore their Saviour King:

Refrain

Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace:

Refrain

For thy blest cross which doth for all atone
creation's praises rise before thy throne:

Refrain

Michael Robert Newbolt (1874-1956) and George William Kitchen (1827-1912)

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Greeting

Bishop Philip says

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.

Bishop Philip introduces the service and then invites us to confess our sins

Act of Penitence

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

**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.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

(Isaiah 61.1-9)

Read by David Barlow, Chair of the Diocesan of Finance

A reading from the book 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. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; but you shall be called priests of the LORD, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. Because their shame was double, and dishonour was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings

Psalm
(89.21-28)

I have found David my servant;
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
My hand shall hold him fast,
and my arm shall strengthen him.
The enemy shall not be able to do him violence;
the son of wickedness shall not hurt him.
I will smite down his foes before his face,
and plague them that hate him.
My truth also and my mercy shall be with him;
and in my Name shall his horn be exalted.
I will set his dominion also in the sea,
and his right hand in the floods.
He shall call me, Thou art my Father,
my God, and my strong salvation.
And I will make him my firstborn,
higher than the kings of the earth.

New Testament Reading

(Revelation 1.4-8)

Read by Janet Thomas, Cathedral Chapter Senior Non-Executive Member

A reading from the Book of Revelation

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand to sing

Gradual Hymn

The Bishop of Blackburn

There is a period of silence after the sermon for reflection

The Renewal of Commitment to Ministry

Please stand

Bishop Philip says

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 his body and blood. He consecrated himself to his Father's service, to be the high priest of the New Covenant.

Through our baptism into Christ we are all members of his priestly people; we have a gospel to proclaim, gifts to exercise and a part to play in the body of Christ.

I invite you all now to dedicate yourselves afresh as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Will you serve and witness to the Lord with faith, humility and joy?

By the help of God, I will.

Lay members of the congregation sit

Bishop Philip addresses the priests and deacons

My brothers and sisters, fellow priests and deacons, I invite you now to dedicate yourselves afresh to his service, as stewards of the mysteries of God and ministers of his grace. At your ordination you accepted the yoke of Christ for love of the Lord and his Church. Are you resolved to unite yourself more closely to Christ and to become more like him, joyfully sacrificing your own pleasures and ambitions to bring his peace and love to your brothers and sisters?

Priests and deacons

By the help of God, I will.

With the example of the Lord who washed his disciples' feet, will you be faithful in serving the needs of others and diligent in caring for those in need and trouble, in strengthening the faithful and in searching out the indifferent and the lost?

Priests and deacons

By the help of God, I will.

Will you fashion your life according to the pattern of Christ, that you may be a true pastor, by word and example, to the people among whom you serve?

Priests and deacons

By the help of God, I will.

Will you work in partnership with all whom the Lord has given you, and encourage all the baptized to grow as the royal priesthood of the new covenant?

Priests and deacons

By the help of God, I will.

Will you be a faithful minister of the mysteries of God by leading the worship of his people with devotion and care and by teaching the Christian faith with conviction and joy?

Priests and deacons

By the help of God, I will.

Will you continue in the way of Christ, the head and shepherd of the Church of God, whose grace is sufficient to meet your need?

Priests and deacons

By the help of God, I will.

The priests and deacons sit

Amy Partington, a chorister, addresses the bishops

Bishops, will you be faithful to the promise you made at your consecration to uphold the truth of the gospel?

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

Will you promote unity, peace and love among all Christian people, especially in this diocese, and be diligent in prayer and the reading of the holy Scriptures?

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

Will you strive to become more like our High Priest and Good Shepherd, the Teacher and Servant of all, and so to be an authentic sign of Christ's loving presence among us?

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

The congregation stands. Bishop Philip addresses the congregation

My brothers and sisters, pray for your bishops, priests and deacons. Ask the Lord to bless us with the fullness of his love, that we may be faithful servants of Christ, our great High Priest, serving the Church with gifts that encourage and equip the people of God, and make Christ known in our generation.

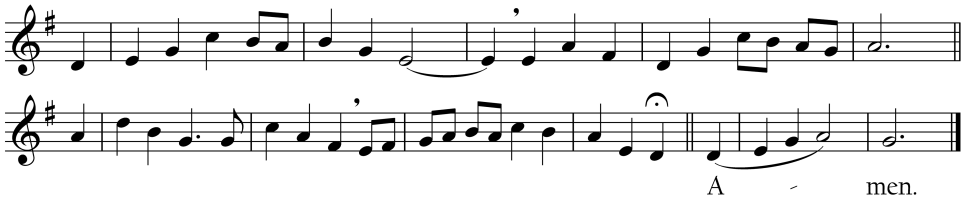
**Lord Jesus Christ,
hear us and answer our prayer.**

Almighty God,
who has given us the will to undertake all these things,
give us also the strength to perform them,
that he may complete that work which he has begun in us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

During the hymn oils are brought forward to be presented

Hymn

GONFALON ROYAL 128



Blest 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.

Eternal King, look down and bless
the oil your servants offer here,
and may it be a lively sign
which all the pow'r's of darkness fear

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.

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

Lord Christ, the Father's only Son,
Who took our flesh in Mary's womb,
Give light to your anointed ones,
and break the pow'r of death's dark tomb.

So may this joyous Paschal feast,
the time when saving grace is giv'n,
fill ev'ry Christian soul with praise,
and raise our minds from earth to heav'n. Amen.

Translated by Richard Rutt (b. 1925)

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.

The Deacon of the Oil presents the oil with these words

The oil for the anointing of the sick and dying.

Bishop Philip prays

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. **Amen.**

The Deacon of the Oil presents the oil with these words

The oil for the signing with the cross at baptism.

Bishop Philip prays

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. **Amen.**

The Deacon of the Oil presents the oil with these words

The oil of chrism.

Bishop Philip prays

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:
**Blessed be God, our strength and our salvation,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

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 the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

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

The deacon says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*When offering a greeting please respect those who may wish to keep their distance
and not pass the peace physically*

Preparation of the Table

During this hymn those assisting in administering communion move to the north and south transepts and remain there during the eucharistic prayer

Offertory hymn

HEREFORD 431



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.

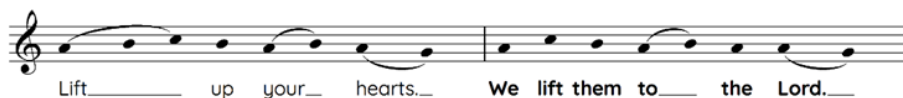
Ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat,
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Pour upon the poverty of our love
and the weakness of our praise
the transforming fire of your presence. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer



It is indeed right and good
always and everywhere to give you thanks
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
By the outpouring of your Holy Spirit
you anointed him to be the servant of all
and ordained that he should enter
into your kingdom through suffering.
And now he stands by us and pours out for our healing
the oil of consolation and the wine of renewed hope.
In your wisdom and love you anoint your holy people
to be a royal priesthood, to share in Christ's suffering
and to reveal his glory to the world.
Therefore earth unites with heaven to sing a new song of praise;
we too join with angels and archangels
as they proclaim your glory without end.

The choir sings

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.

The president says

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.
On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.
So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

The deacon says

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Mary, Paul and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As we join our prayers with those of the Church Universal, so we pray, each in our own language, as our Saviour taught us,

Notre père, qui es aux cieux ... Missierna, li inti fis-smewwiet...
Vater unser im Himmel ... Padre nosso, que estais nos céus...
Padre nostro che sei nei cieli ... Ojczy nasz, któryś jest w niebie...
Otče náš, jenž jsi na nebesích ... ي السَّمَاوَاتِ،
Têve Mûsu, kuris esi danguje! ... Ein Tad, yr hwn wyt yn y nefoedd...
Tatal nostru care esti in ceruri ...

**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 Breaking of the Bread

The President breaks the consecrated bread, saying

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup
**we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

If you are able, please remain standing while the choir sings

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.

The Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Communion is available in both kinds, and the minister distributing bread will say

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

After receiving the bread, if you wish to receive wine please move to the station near the central aisle, and return to your place by the central aisle of the Nave

The minister distributing wine will say

The blood of Christ. **Amen.**

If you do not wish to receive communion wine, please walk past that second distribution point, and return to your place by the central aisle of the Nave

Anthems

The choir sings

O for a closer walk with God,
a calm and heavenly frame,
a light to shine upon the road
that leads me to the Lamb.

Return, O holy Dove! return,
sweet messenger of rest!
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
and drove thee from my breast.

So shall my walk be close with God,
calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road
that leads me to the Lamb.

William Cowper (1731–1800)

Music by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Bless the Lord oh my soul

*Bless the Lord O my soul
O my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name*

You're rich in love
And You're slow to anger
Your name is great
And Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness
I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons
For my heart to find

The sun comes up
It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass
And whatever lies before me
Let me be singing
When the evening comes

And on that day
When my strength is failing
The end draws near
And my time has come
Still my soul will
Sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years
And then forevermore

Matt Redman (2011)

Prayer after Communion

Good Shepherd,
you have welcomed us at your table and
have anointed us with the oil of gladness
may your goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our life
that we may dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.
Amen.

Heavenly Father,
we embrace your call for us to make disciples,
to be witnesses, to grow leaders
and inspire children and young people.
Give us eyes to see your vision,
ears to hear the prompting of your Spirit
and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son,
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Please stand to sing

Final Hymn

Fulda 486



We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout the earth;
the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem
not in a royal house or hall,
but in a stable dark and dim,
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save,
in lonely suffering on the Cross;
for all he loved his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for he was free.
He broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified.
He sends his Spirit on his Church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Edward J. Burns (b. 1938)

The Dismissal

The Bishop says

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

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

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

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 among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The deacon says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

The bishops lead the clergy down the nave and out through the west door. The procession continues to the crypt where Bishop Philip will address the clergy.

If you have booked for lunch this is available in the crypt. If you have not booked but would like to stay for lunch, please speak to the Canon James Lawrence, Cathedral Missioner.

Organ Voluntary

Nun Danket Alle Gott – Sigrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

Oils are available after the service at the west end of the north aisle adjacent to the Virger's office. They are in sealed bottles, so no container is required.

*Oil will be available at the Cathedral throughout the year
if more supplies are required.*

The following ministries will be offered:

- Prayer ministry and / or laying on of hands NORTH TRANSEPT
- Anointing with oil NORTH TRANSEPT

A note of explanation from *Common Worship*

Healing, reconciliation and restoration are integral to the good news of Jesus Christ. For this reason prayer for individuals, focused through laying on of hands or anointing with oil, has a proper place within the public prayer of the Church. God's gracious activity of healing is to be seen both as part of the proclaiming of the good news and as an outworking of the presence of the Spirit in the life of the Church.

*For all these ministries the liturgical provision in *Common Worship (Pastoral Services and Rites on the Way)* is used.*

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