Diocese of St Albans

Order of Service

for the

Inauguration of a New Ministry
Introduction

Welcome to this service, which marks both a new sphere of ministry in the life of your new priest and a new chapter in the worship and life of this parish. It is fitting therefore that we come together with the bishop and representatives of our partner churches to offer ourselves afresh to God for the work of the gospel.

We approach God most appropriately at the beginning of worship in praise and confession. The new priest is then introduced and presented to the Bishop and people. The Declaration of Assent and the Oaths to the Sovereign and Diocesan Bishop are required by law and give us assurance of the trustworthiness of his/her ministry.

A reading from God’s word to us from the Bible is followed by a sermon in which the same word is given relevance for this time and place.

As we pray together for the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, the Bishop licenses the new priest and blesses him/her together with all who minister here. If the new priest is also to be collated or instituted, this then follows. Following the installation of the new priest, he/she is welcomed by the community and all are invited to greet one another in the exchange of the Peace.

Because ministry and mission is not the prerogative of one person but the privilege of all the baptised, the following Act of Commitment reflects this collaboration between priest and people.

Water, representing our baptism at the start of our Christian journey, is brought forward to the new priest and then poured into the font. All commit themselves to making new disciples.

The Bible, in which God’s word is uniquely revealed to us in Jesus the Word of God, is brought forward to the new priest and then placed upon the lectern. All commit themselves to going deeper into God.

Bread and wine, recalling the Holy Communion, in which Jesus the Bread of Life comes to us, are presented to the priest and then placed upon the altar. All commit themselves to the transformation of our communities by the presence of Christ in us.

Prayers are then led by the new priest and lay people. The service concludes with the blessing by the Bishop of the people and parish.

Where the priest is being licensed to a Local Ecumenical Project (LEP) or team ministry, a suitably amended procedure is followed.
Order of Service

The Gathering

*The Rural Dean may welcome the congregation and announce the hymn.*

Silence is kept.

*All stand and sing the following hymn, during which the Bishop’s procession enters the church.*

*The Bishop is escorted to his seat by the churchwardens.*

Hymn (insert)

The Greeting

*The Bishop greets the people:*

Grace and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All And also with you.

[From Easter Day to Pentecost this acclamation follows:]

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Preface

*Bishop* We have come together to worship God
and to celebrate the ministry of the whole
people of God in this place.
God blesses his people with a rich variety of gifts
and it is our duty and our joy to use those gifts
to extend God’s kingdom in the world.
Today we welcome N (and his/her family) to this benefice and license him/her at the beginning of his/her ministry among us. Together we dedicate ourselves to the service of God in this community/these communities and listen afresh to God’s call to each one of us. So let us first wait humbly upon God, giving thanks for all that He has done to bring us to this moment.

Silence is kept.

Confession

Mindful of God’s blessings, let us now ask forgiveness for those times we have neglected God’s call or failed in our service of one another and our communities:

Sit or kneel.

Rural Dean Christ came in humility to share our lives; forgive our pride.
Lord, have mercy.
All Lord, have mercy.

Rural Dean Christ came to proclaim good news for all people; forgive our silence.
Christ, have mercy.
All Christ, have mercy.

Rural Dean Christ came in love to a world of suffering; forgive our self-centredness.
Lord, have mercy.
All Lord, have mercy.

Bishop May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour, forgive you your sins and make you holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord,

All Amen.
Silence is kept

Bishop

Heavenly Father,
we gather in your name with thankfulness and praise
for the continuing ministry of your Church in this place,
for all who have been raised up in times past
to serve you here,
and for your servant N called by you to this present task.
Guide and strengthen all your faithful people
that we may give ourselves in love and service
to one another and to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

All sit

The Presentation

Bishop

I now invite the Churchwardens to bring forward your new priest for presentation

The new parish priest (waiting at the West Door), is led to the bishop, escorted by (the Patron), the Archdeacon, a representative of his/her previous sphere of ministry and the churchwardens.

Patron/Archdeacon

Right Reverend Father in God,
I present to you [full name]
who after prayerful consideration and due consultation
has been chosen to serve as Priest
in this parish/benefice/these parishes,
and I present him/ her to be licensed.

A representative of [X] (the previous parish or sphere of ministry)

Right Reverend Father in God, I, [Christian Name and Surname of representative],
[office held in parish or sphere of ministry of the representative,]
who have shared [Christian Name of new Priest’s ministry in the Parish/Deanery/etc]
of [new Priest’s former location],
warmly commend him/her to you
and to the people of this parish/benefice.

Bishop I thank you for your presentation and commendation.
The Bishop addresses the new Priest

N, I greet you [and your family] in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (and welcome you to this Diocese).

The Bishop addresses the Parish Priest-designate:

N, you have been chosen as Incumbent/ Team Vicar/ Priest in Charge of … Do you believe that God has truly called you to this ministry?

Priest I believe that God has called me, and, with his help, I will serve faithfully in this ministry.

The people stand

The Bishop addresses the people of the parish/parishes/benefice.

Bishop People of God, is it your will that [N.] should serve with you in this parish / in this benefice?

All It is.

Bishop Will you support and uphold him/her in this ministry?

All With the help of God, we will.

The Patron, Churchwardens, and other representatives return to their seats.

The people sit.

The Declaration of Assent and the Oaths

Bishop In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I shall now license (institute and collate) (NN, Clerk in Holy Orders, as [Incumbent/ Team Vicar/ Priest in charge] of this parish, but first let Declaration of Assent be made and subscribed, and the Oaths be taken according to law.
The new Parish Priest, supported by the Archdeacon/ Rural Dean, stands before the Bishop.

The Bishop addresses the new Priest:

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?

The Priest affirms, saying:

I, [Full Name of new Priest], 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.

Taking a New Testament, he/she turns to the people and says:

I, [Full Name of new Priest] 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.

Holding the New Testament, he/she turns to the bishop and says:

I, [Full Name of new Priest], do swear by Almighty God that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Lord Bishop of St. Albans and his successors in all things lawful and honest: so help me God

The Archdeacon/ Rural Dean receives the Bible from the new priest.

The priest signs the Declarations.
The Collect

All stand

Bishop The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Silence is kept.

The following collect (or the collect of the day) is said.

Almighty and everlasting God,
we thank you that through your Son
you have called us into the fellowship
of your universal church:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people
that each in their vocation and ministry
may be an instrument of love
and give to your servant N now to be licensed
the needful gifts of grace,
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.
All Amen.

The new priest moves to a seat near the front of the church and all sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading

A reading from Scripture follows.

All stand and sing a Hymn

(or an Anthem may be sung).

Address

All sit.

A sermon is preached.
The Licensing

The Bishop invites the congregation to observe a period of silent prayer.

All kneel or sit.

The Bishop then kneels besides the new priest and silence is kept.

This, or another hymn to the Holy Spirit, is sung.

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire, 
and lighten with celestial fire. 
Thou the anointing Spirit art, 
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart. 

Thy blessed unction from above 
is comfort, life, and fire of love. 
Enable with perpetual light 
the dullness of our blinded sight. 

Anoint and cheer our soiléd face 
with the abundance of thy grace. 
Keep far from foes, give peace at home: 
where thou art guide, no ill can come. 

Teach us to know the Father, Son, 
and thee, of both, to be but One, 
that through the ages all along, 
this may be our endless song: 

Praise to thy eternal merit, 
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 

Words: Latin, ninth century; Music: Veni Creator Spiritus (plainsong) 
trans. John Cosin, 1627

The congregation stands.

The new priest remains kneeling before the bishop, holding the seal of the Licence in his/ her hand. 
The Bishop reads the Deed and hands it to the minister.

Bishop N. receive the Cure of Souls which is both yours and mine; 
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. 

Priest Amen.
[The Anointing]

[The Bishop may anoint the hands of the new priest,
May God,
who anointed the Christ with the Holy Spirit at his baptism,
anoint and empower you in your new ministry.]

The Blessing of the Priest/ Ministry Team

Colleagues and assistant ministers may join the new priest and kneel before the bishop at this point.

Bishop Almighty God,
who for the salvation of the world
gives his people many gifts and ministries,
stir up in you the gifts of his grace,
sustain you in your own ministry in this place;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Then, either (at a Licensing) [select and delete as appropriate]

The Installation

Bishop Archdeacon, I ask you to install N. as Priest in this parish.

The Archdeacon escorts the Priest to a seat designated for him/her. The Priest sits.
The Archdeacon says:

N., I install you as [the Priest of (for Priest in Charge) a Priest in (for Team Vicar)
this parish. The Lord defend your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore. Amen.

Or, at a Collation/Institution and Induction:

The Induction and Installation

Bishop Archdeacon, we have instituted/ collated N as incumbent of this parish/ these parishes.
We now direct you to induct him into formal possession of the benefice.
The Archdeacon either takes the new incumbent to the main door of the church and places the incumbent’s hand on the key, or presents the church key and the keys of other benefice churches.

Archdeacon  

N, by virtue of the authority given to me, I induct you into possession of this church/these churches and benefice.

The Priest may then go to the church bell and toll it to make public his/her induction and the start of his/her ministry in the Parish and, if appropriate, may be given a copy of the parish map. (S)he is then taken to the incumbent’s stall by the Archdeacon and sits down.

Archdeacon  

N, I install you as incumbent of this benefice.

God the Holy Trinity,  
make you strong in faith and love,  
defend you on every side  
and guide you in truth and peace.  

All  

Amen.

The Welcome  

The priest then stands in his stall and faces the people.

Bishop  

I present to you, your new rector/vicar/priest.

The new Priest is welcomed with applause.

The congregation sits  

The Deanery Lay Co-Chairperson welcomes the new Priest on behalf of the deanery. Representatives of the local church and community and local Christians may then welcome the new Priest.

Each moves to the front and facing the priest and congregation says these, or similar words:

As [role] and in the name of the [body/constituency], I welcome you.

The Peace  

All stand.

Bishop  We are the body of Christ,  
In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.  
let us then pursue all that makes for peace  
and builds up our common life.
The Peace of the Lord be always with you

All And also with you

A minister says

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ’s peace.

All are invited to greet each other

The new parish priest may give the Notices

A hymn may be sung during which an offering is made for the support of ordination candidates in training

**An Act of Commitment by Priest and People**

All stand.

The Bishop addresses the Priest and the congregation:

I now invite you to affirm together your commitment to the task of ministry, witness and service to which God is calling you all.

The priest stands at the front of the church.

A flagon of water is presented to the Priest.

Lay person N, be among us as a priest who rejoices to bring new Christians to Baptism and to share with them the Living Water, Jesus Christ himself.

A lay person receives the flagon from the priest, pouring the water into the font, as the priest says:

Will you share with me in the ministry of making new disciples to which we are called together?

All Together, by God’s grace, we will share the good news of Christ with the world and make new disciples.
A Bible is presented to the Priest.

Lay person Be among us as a priest who studies the Scriptures, proclaims the Word and teaches the faith.

A lay person receives the Bible from the Priest, placing it upon the lectern, as the priest says:

Will you share with me in the regular study and proclamation of God's word that together we may bring the light of faith to those in darkness, kindle the fire of love upon earth, and open the door of hope to the world?

All Together, by God's grace, we will go deeper into God and share the Good News of Christ with the world.

A lay person presents Bread and Wine.

Be among us as a priest of the Eucharist, presiding among us when we celebrate the Lord's death and resurrection.

A lay person receives the bread and wine from the priest, placing them upon the altar, as the priest says:

Will you share regularly with me in this Sacrament of Holy Communion that we may grow in unity and love, and together proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes?

All Together, by God's grace, we will seek to transform communities and be the living body of Christ.

Priest I pledge myself to care for the community that gathers here, to share with them the Word of God and the work of ministry, to celebrate with them the sacraments of the new covenant, and to encourage them in their discipleship.

All We pledge ourselves to pray and care for our community, to share with all the Word of God and the work of ministry, to celebrate with all the sacraments of the New Covenant and to encourage all in their discipleship. Together we pledge to make this a place where Christian people are equipped for their life and witness in God's world. Amen.


**Prayers of Dedication and Intercession**

All sit or kneel

**Priest**

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of faith by which we are called to love and serve you and one another. We give thanks for the life of this parish/benefice, and for the witness of those who have worshipped before us in this place. We ask for your blessing on us now as we look to the future with hope. Lord, in your mercy

*All hear our prayer*

**Lay person**

Sustainer God, we pray for all those who have been given responsibility for the ordering of our parish life and we give thanks for the ministry of our churchwardens and PCC members. As we welcome N… our new priest, help us to grow together in love and trust, and guide us in using our gifts so that our community of faith may flourish and live life in all its fullness. Lord, in your mercy

*All hear our prayer.*

**Deanery Lay Chairperson**

Living God, we pray for the people we are called to serve and we bring before you the needs of this church (local concerns may be included…). We pray for the leaders of our community that they may act with integrity and be given the spirit of wisdom and compassion so that your kingdom may come in ways which enrich our common life. We ask for your blessing on our homes, on all those who live and work here. Lord, in your mercy

*All hear our prayer.*

**Headteacher/school rep/parent**

Creator God, we pray for our places of learning, for our nurseries, schools and colleges, that our young people may learn to see you in the beauty of the world around them and discover your creative spirit in their work and their play. May those who learn and those who teach discover their true value and potential and may we serve one another after Christ’s example. Lord, in your mercy

*All hear our prayer*

**Priest:**

Tender God, as we step out afresh to live your love and serve Christ in the world, we ask that your guiding hand would hold us fast and lead us confidently through all that life has to offer:

*All*

Living God,
draw us deeper into your love;
Jesus our Lord, send us to care and serve;
Holy Spirit, make us heralds of good news.
Stir us, strengthen us,
teach and inspire us to live your love

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with generosity and joy, imagination and courage;
for the sake of your world
and in the name of Jesus, Amen.

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.

The Dismissal

The Blessing of the congregation
(from the altar)

All stand.

Bishop

God the Father draw you deeper into his love;
God the Son empower you to serve the world;
God the Holy Spirit strengthen you to proclaim the Gospel;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All

Amen.

A hymn may be sung as the Bishop and ministers move to the church door.
The Bishop blesses the parish at the church door:

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace,
both now and evermore.
Amen.]

The Organ Voluntary may then be played.

The ministers and people depart.