

RECEPTION OF THE HOLY OILS

1. The old Oils are either burned in lamps or returned to the earth. While the validity of the Oils remains, the old Oils should not normally be used for Christian Initiation at Easter.
2. It is appropriate that the Oils which are blessed by the Bishop during the Chrism Mass at Clifton Cathedral, be presented to and received by the local parish community.
3. The reception of the Holy Oils may take place at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday or another suitable time. This does not replace the Penitential Rite if the presentation takes place at the beginning of the Mass (see below).
4. The Oils should be reserved in a suitable repository in the sanctuary or preferably near to the baptismal font.
5. The Oils are received by the priest and are then placed on a suitably prepared table in the sanctuary (not on the altar, where the primary focus remains Eucharistic) or they may be placed in the repository where they will be reserved.
6. As each of the Oils is presented, one of the following forms may be used to explain the significance of the Oils. This practice is particularly appropriate in the context of a parish program for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

A Suggested Rite for the Reception of the Holy Oils

After the Sign of the Cross and the Liturgical greeting, the priest uses the following Rite of Reception of the Oils:

Priest: Let us pray for those who will encounter Christ through His Church when they are strengthened to be his witnesses by the signs of the new covenant.

Presenter of the Oil of the Sick:

THE OIL OF THE SICK

Intercessor: Let us pray that the Spirit of God may strengthen those who suffer illness, anxiety or pain. Through the prayer of faith and the anointing of this Oil may they experience the healing power of Christ.

Presenter of the Oil of Catechumens:

THE OIL OF CATECHUMENS

Intercessor: Let us pray for those who are to be anointed with this Oil in preparation for their baptism that they may accept the challenge of Christian witness and experience the joy of new birth in the family of the Church.

Presenter of the Holy Chrism:

THE HOLY CHRISM

Intercessor: The Lord sent his Spirit to fill the Church with every gift and complete his saving work. Let us pray for those who are to be anointed with this Oil in the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Orders. Sealed by the Spirit may they be transformed into the likeness of Christ and witness to him as they share his work of service.

OR

Presenter of the Oil of the Sick:

THE OIL OF THE SICK

Priest: May the sick who are anointed with this Oil
experience the compassion of Christ and his saving love,
in body and soul.

The people may respond:

Blessed be God for ever.

Presenter of the Oil of Catechumens:

THE OIL OF CATECHUMENS

Priest: Through anointing with this Oil, may our
catechumens who are preparing to receive the saving waters of Baptism
be strengthened by Christ to resist the power of Satan
and reject evil in all its forms.

The people may respond:

Blessed be God for ever.

Presenter of the Holy Chrism:

THE HOLY CHRISM

Priest: Through anointing with this perfumed Chrism
may children and adults, who are baptised and confirmed,
and Priests, who are ordained,
experience the gracious gift of the Holy Spirit.

The people may respond:

Blessed be God for ever.

The Mass then continues with the Penitential Rite.

Alternatively, the Holy Oils might be brought up during the Prayer of the Faithful and the following included in the intercessions:

We bring to the altar the Oils blessed by the Bishop at the Cathedral yesterday, for the use in our Parish over this next year:

For the sick and those who will be anointed asking for healing and strength
(please wait until the Oil is brought up to the sanctuary);

For those who will be baptised here in our church and welcomed into our Parish Community
(please wait until the Oil is brought up to the sanctuary);

For those who will be anointed with Chrism in Confirmation to be like Christ
(please wait until the Oil is brought up to the sanctuary).

May God's abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit of Jesus be given to all who seek his help.
Lord in your mercy...