

An Order for the Commissioning of Lay Ministries

Form A

Commissioned Ministries: Pastoral Assistant, Worship Leader, Catechist

This liturgy can be used within the context of a Eucharist or a non-Eucharistic service. It could also 'stand-alone' as an informal service by including bible readings, hymns, prayers of intercession and an affirmation of faith. The liturgy of Commissioning will be led by the Team Leader.

This is the day that God has made, and given to us.

All Thanks be to God.

God has called us here, to be in communion and friendship, one with another:

All God is ever present with us.

In our sharing, in our conversations, in our service, and in our times of prayer:

All feed us and nourish us with the Bread and Word of Life.

In our ongoing discipleship, as we seek to follow you in faith:

All Open our hearts to give more of ourselves, and to share the gifts you have given us.

Compassionate God,

you call us to care for all your people.

Deepen our faith,

and make us more aware of the world

in which you call us to serve.

By your Holy Spirit

may all whom you call

share your gospel of love and peace,

relying not on ourselves alone

but on Jesus who is our Friend and Companion,

now and forever.

All Amen.

The Commissioning

Those to be Commissioned - stand in front of the congregation

We pray for those to be commissioned into the ministry/ministries of

There are many gifts of the Spirit,
and we have each been given our own unique gifts
to share with others in the name and the service of God.

**All May God be with you in your ministry to which you are to be commissioned,
and may God help us to discern our own calling and ministry.**

Silence

Those to be Commissioned make the following responses

Do you believe that you are called by God to this ministry?

I believe that God has called me.

Will you be faithful to God in prayer, the study of God's word and receiving of Holy Communion, and in the whole of your life?

I will, with God's help and the support of all present here.

[Will you be faithful to God by participating in further training?

With the help of God, I will.]

Will you be faithful to God in offering of yourself for this ministry?

I will, with God's help and the support of all present here.

Loving God,

**you have called me to partake in the ministry of your church
within this Ministry/Mission Area.**

Hearing your Word spoken into my heart,

may I share that Word with others

through the ministry I am called to offer. Amen.

To the congregation

People of God, will you pray for, and support, those to be commissioned?

With the help of God we will.

To those being Commissioned

With the authority of the Bishop, I commission you now to the ministry of

Thanks be to God.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

The Team Leader shakes the hand of those commissioned in welcome and may a certificate of commissioning may be presented

May Christ, who came among us not be served but to serve,
be your inspiration in all that you say and do.

All Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

To the congregation and those commissioned

Through faith in Jesus Christ we are called into God's service:

**All Loving God,
from whom all blessings flow,
we give you thanks and praise
for all that you have called us to be.
Draw out the many and varied gifts within us
so that, in faith and trust,
they may be offered,
in the name and service of Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Further Suggestions

Collect and Post Communion Prayer

351: The Collect for Ember Days – For the Ministry of all Christian People

362: The Collect for Mission

369: The Collect for the Guidance of the Holy Spirit

Bible Readings

Numbers 27. 15-23

Isaiah 55. 8-11

Jeremiah 29. 11-14

Psalms 63. 1-8

Psalms 84

Psalms 116

Romans 12. 1-8

Ephesians 4. 11-16

Colossians 3. 12-17

Matthew 16. 24-27

Luke 10. 1-9

John 15. 12-17

Preface- The Holy Eucharist 2004

18: The Holy Spirit

31: Healing

34: Mission