

HOLY THURSDAY

RECEPTION OF OILS

Welcome:

(greeter goes to a mike to welcome the assembly; a stand is in place in the sanctuary area with three levels to receive the oils;

Oil bearers are standing ready in the order of their presentation)

Greeter:

Good evening every one.

The time has come – our great feast is about to begin.

We are about to enter into the solemn celebration of the Triduum – the highpoint of our year as Christians.

We remember the words of Jesus to his disciples:

“Go and prepare a room for me”.

This is the room which we have prepared.

This is the room in which we have gathered as a community.

Here in this place, in these next days

we will celebrate the great mysteries of our faith –

in a few moments of shared silence

let us ready ourselves to celebrate well.

(pause)

Greeter:

On this night we receive into our community the holy oils that were blessed for us by Bishop Denis at the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral on Monday night:

We present the oil of the sick.

(The person carrying this oil lifts it high and carries it from the door of the sacristy down to the sanctuary area and turns to face the people with the jar still lifted high. When they have reached the sanctuary the reader continues...)

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

Blessed be God for ever.

All: Blessed be God for ever. *(cue choir to repeat this)*

(the person then places the oil in its stand and goes to the edge of the of the sanctuary, facing towards the altar)

We present the oil of catechumens:

(The person carrying this oil lifts it high and carries it from the door of the sacristy down to the sanctuary area and turns to face the people with the jar still lifted high. When they have reached the sanctuary the reader continues...)

Through anointing with this oil, may our catechumens who are preparing to receive the sacrament of baptism be strengthened by Christ to resist the power of Satan and reject evil in all its forms. Blessed be God for ever.

All: Blessed be God for ever. *(cue choir to repeat this)*

(The person then places the oil in its stand and goes to the edge of the sanctuary, facing towards the altar)

We present the holy Chrism.

(The person carrying this oil lifts it high and carries it from the door of the sacristy down to the sanctuary area and turns to face the people with the jar still lifted high. When they have reached the sanctuary the reader continues...)

Through anointing with this perfumed Chrism may children and adults, who are baptised and confirmed, and presbyters, who are ordained, experience the gracious gift of the Holy Spirit. Blessed be God for ever.

All: Blessed be God for ever. *(cue choir to repeat this)*

(person then places the oil in its stand and goes to the edge of the sanctuary, facing the altar with the other two presenters, they bow and return to their places but not via the central aisle where the main procession will now begin.)

Greeter:

At the beginning of this great feast, let us stand and unite in song.

(Greeter returns to his/her place—opening hymn and procession begins...)