

The Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity
commonly called

**CHRIST CHURCH
DUBLIN**



SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2023

LICENSING OF DIOCESAN LAY READERS

18.00

PREACHER: THE ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN

Please stand when the clergy enter.

Words of Welcome

Hymn



Thy hand, O God, has guided
Thy flock, from age to age;
The wondrous tale is written,
Full clear on every page;
Our fathers owned thy goodness,
And we their deeds record;
And both of this bear witness;
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy heralds brought glad tidings
To greatest, as to least;
They bade men rise, and hasten
To share the great King's feast;
And this was all their teaching,
In every deed and word,
To all alike proclaiming
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Through many a day of darkness,
Through many a scene of strife,
The faithful few fought bravely
To guard the nation's life.
Their gospel of redemption,
Sin pardoned, man restored,
Was all in this enfolded:
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

And we, shall we be faithless?
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the conflict,
And cast away our crown?
Not so: in God's deep counsels
Some better thing is stored;
We will maintain, unflinching,
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us,
Nor leave thy work undone;
With thy right hand to help us,
The victory shall be won;
And then, by men and angels,
Thy Name shall be adored,
And this shall be their anthem:
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Tune: Thornbury
Basil Harwood (1859-1949)

E.H. Plumptre (1821-91)

The Greeting

The Archbishop says

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

We are the body of Christ.

By the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:

One God and Father of all.

The Commissioning of Diocesan Lay Readers

The Archbishop says

Saint Paul wrote:

Just as in a single human body there are many limbs and organs, all with different functions, so we who are united with Christ, though many, form one body, and belong to one another as its limbs and organs. We have gifts allotted to each of us by God's grace. *(Romans 12: 5, 6)*

Today, giving thanks for the variety of gifts and ministries that God has bestowed on the Church we have come together to publicly recognize those whom we believe God has called to the office of Lay Reader in the Church.

The Candidates come forward

The Director of Lay Ministry presents the candidate/s to the Archbishop.

Archbishop, I present to you **Nn, Nn, Nn, Nn**, to be admitted as Diocesan Lay Readers in the United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough.

The Archbishop addresses the Director

Are those responsible for their selection and training satisfied that they are called and ready to be commissioned in the Church of God?

The Director **They are satisfied.**

The Archbishop addresses the candidates

Do you believe in your heart that God has called you to the office and work of a Lay Reader in the Church of Ireland?

Candidates **I believe that God has called me.**

The Archbishop addresses each of the candidates

N.. I commission you as a Lay Reader in the Church of God and to exercise that ministry in these United Dioceses. Receive this scarf and wear it as a sign of your ministry.

The Archbishop addresses all the candidates

You are bound to Christ,
who promises you his perfect freedom,
so we call you to give yourself wholeheartedly to the task he gives you.
The ministry to which God calls you to fulfil,
is part of the ministry of all baptized people.

So we invite you to seek the support and prayers of those who share with you the ministry of God. We commit you to God's care.

A time of silent prayer

The Archbishop continues

Relying on the mercies of God, and following in his ways
will you do your best to fulfil the calling you accept today?

With the help of God, I will.

Seeking to preserve the unity of the church, and the honour of Christ's name
will you submit yourself to those placed over you in this work?

With the help of God, I will.

Knowing the power of the Holy Spirit in your life, will you work in his
strength and witness to Christ's love in the way you serve?

With the help of God, I will.

Almighty God

You have chosen these your servants

to be Lay Readers in your church

give them the will to undertake this task

the strength to perform it

So that they may complete the work which you have begun in them

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The congregation is seated

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

The First Reading

Judges 5: 1-12

A reading from the book of Judges

Then Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying:

‘When locks are long in Israel,

when the people offer themselves willingly –

 bless the Lord!

‘Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes;

 to the Lord I will sing,

 I will make melody to the Lord, the God of Israel.

‘Lord, when you went out from Seir,

 when you marched from the region of Edom,

the earth trembled,

 and the heavens poured,

 the clouds indeed poured water.

The mountains quaked before the Lord, the One of Sinai,

 before the Lord, the God of Israel.

'In the days of Shamgar son of Anath,
in the days of Jael, caravans ceased
and travellers kept to the byways.
The peasantry prospered in Israel,
they grew fat on plunder,
because you arose, Deborah,
arose as a mother in Israel.
When new gods were chosen,
then war was in the gates.
Was shield or spear to be seen
among forty thousand in Israel?
My heart goes out to the commanders of Israel
who offered themselves willingly among the people.
Bless the Lord.
'Tell of it, you who ride on white donkeys,
you who sit on rich carpets,
and you who walk by the way.
To the sound of musicians at the watering-places,
there they repeat the triumphs of the Lord,
the triumphs of his peasantry in Israel.
'Then down to the gates marched the people of the Lord.
'Awake, awake, Deborah!
Awake, awake, utter a song!
Arise, Barak, lead away your captives,
O son of Abinoam.

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

The Psalm

Psalm 119: 33-38

Teach me O Lord the way of thy statutes:
and I shall keep it unto the end.
**Give me understanding and I shall keep thy law:
yea I shall keep it with my whole heart.**
Make me to go in the path of thy commandments:
for therein is my desire.
**Incline my heart unto thy testimonies:
and not to covetousness.**
O turn away mine eyes lest they behold vanity:
and quicken thou me in thy way.
**O stablish thy word in thy servant:
that I may fear thee.**

The Second Reading

Matthew 12: 43-45

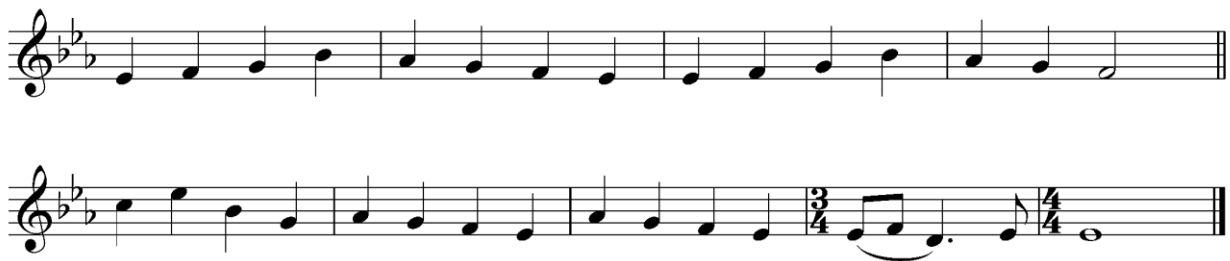
A reading from the Gospel according to St Matthew

‘When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it wanders through waterless regions looking for a resting-place, but it finds none. Then it says, “I will return to my house from which I came.” When it comes, it finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and live there; and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So will it be also with this evil generation.’

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn



Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Words and music by Richard A. M. Gillard (b. 1953)

The Sermon

The Prayers

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world,
for the welfare of the Holy Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all the members of the Church in their vocation and ministry,
that they may serve him in truth and love,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Michael our Archbishop,
and for all bishops, priests and deacons,
that they may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For **Nn, Nn Nn,**
called to be Readers in his Church,
let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church,
that in faithful witness we may proclaim the gospel of reconciliation
to the ends of the earth,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the unity of the Church,
that we may be one in Christ, according to his will,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Final Hymn

A collection is taken at this time



**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;
Thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.**

**Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my armour, and be thou my might;
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower:
Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise:
Thou mine inheritance through all my days;
Thou, and thou only, the first in my heart;
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art!**

**High King of heaven, when the battle is done,
Grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heaven's sun,
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Tune: Slane
Irish Trad. harm. George Hewson (1881-1972)

Irish c. 8th Century
tr. Mary Byrne (1880-1931) and versified
Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)

The Blessing

The Archbishop blesses the people with these words

The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

Please stand for the procession of clergy and sit for the Organ Voluntary