

## **The Blessing of Oil for Healing**

At our Chrism Mass this year, we focused on the blessing of Chrism: the oil used at Baptism associated with Christian baptismal unity. I did not bless the Oil for Healing at the Chrism Mass in that I would like priests to bless the oil in their own parish and in the presence of the people whom they will be anointing. My thought is that by blessing the Oil for Healing in the parish, more will become aware of this important ministry of the Church and more will avail themselves of the laying on of hands and anointing.

I would like to suggest that you choose a Sunday on which you or others are preaching about healing to bless the oil.

Below are both some information about the oil and some ideas about how to bless the oil in the context of a Sunday liturgy:

- The oil can be brought forth to the altar in one of two ways: 1) bring the oil up with the offerings of bread, wine and money and then bless it following the prayer after communion. If there is a particular healing ministry in the parish, after the oil is blessed, it can be placed in an aumbry, or some other secure place; or 2) bring the oil forth following the prayer after communion and bless it in the same way as above.
- Blessed oil should be kept reverently and in a safe place. Each time a priest blesses new oil; the old oil should either be poured onto the earth or into some absorbent material or then burned.

The following are a variety of prayers that can be used to bless the oil:

### ***From The Book of Common Prayer (Anglican Church of Canada)***

Almighty God, who hast taught us in thy holy Word to pray for the sick and anoint them with oil, that they may recover their bodily health: Sanctify, we beseech thee, this thy creature of oil; and grant that those who shall be anointed there with may receive healing of body and mind, and strengthening of spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### ***From The Book of Common Prayer 1979 (The Episcopal Church)***

O Lord, holy Father, giver of health and salvation: Send your Holy Spirit to sanctify this oil; that, as your holy apostles anointed many that were sick and healed them, so may those who in faith and repentance receive this holy unction be made whole; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

***From A New Zealand Prayer Book***

God of healing and hope, your Son our Saviour sent his disciples to anoint the sick with oil; fulfill your promise through this oil which we set apart in his name to be used as a sign of forgiveness, healing and salvation

***From Common Worship (The Church of England)***

Lord, holy Father, giver of health and salvation, as your apostles anointed those who were sick and healed them, so continue the ministry of healing in your Church. Sanctify this oil, that those who are anointed with it may be freed from suffering and distress, find inward peace, and know the joy of your salvation, through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Bishop Skelton -- 2015.03.31