

BILL NO 2

Explanatory Memorandum

The 2004 *Book of Common Prayer* does not contain a service for the Institution of an Incumbent. It has for some years been the Liturgical Advisory Committee's intention to offer the General Synod an opportunity to address this matter. Some may feel that Institutions vary greatly from diocese to diocese, and are best planned according to the policies of different bishops. However, the provision of a normative version will not diminish the opportunity for appropriate local flexibility and should provide a necessary benchmark.

In preparing this service the Committee has been conscious of what has been valuable in previous texts, as well as what had not worn particularly well. The Committee has striven to root the ministry of a local incumbent in baptism, from which flows the ministry of us all. Definite connections have been made between this order and the revised Ordinal. The Committee has sought to enrich the section of the service in which the new rector is charged and commissioned, and encounters various symbols reflecting the scope of *his* ministry. The familiar 'perambulation' of the church has been retained and indeed augmented, but a fresh approach has been offered involving presentation of symbolic items to the priest at the front of the church.

Institution services are very dramatic and memorable events in a worshipping community, and it is important to strike a balance between the legal and the pastoral, between the presiding role of the bishop and the inaugural liturgical appearance of a new rector in a parish. It is hoped that this order achieves an appropriate balance and makes very clear what the function of ordained ministry is within the ministry of the whole people of God. The Service may be adapted when the priest being licensed is to serve as a bishop's curate or in a chaplaincy.

REV CANON RB ROUNTREE
THE BISHOP OF CASHEL AND OSSORY

(at the request of the General Synod)

BILL

To carry into effect a Resolution of the General Synod of 2006 to amend the Statute II of 1990 by substituting for THE INSTITUTION OF AN INCUMBENT (AN ALTERNATIVE ORDER), The Institution of an Incumbent for use in churches of the Church of Ireland as set out in the accompanying Schedule.

To carry into effect a Resolution of the General Synod of 2006 to amend Statute Chapter II of 1990 by substituting, for THE INSTITUTION OF AN INCUMBENT (AN ALTERNATIVE ORDER), as included in *Alternative Occasional Services 1993* published by the authority of the General Synod, *The Institution of an Incumbent* as set out in the Schedule to this resolution, for use in the churches of the Church of Ireland.

WHEREAS it is expedient that Statute Chapter II of 1990 be amended by substituting for THE INSTITUTION OF AN INCUMBENT (AN ALTERNATIVE ORDER), *The Institution of an Incumbent* as set out in the Schedule to this Bill, for use in the churches of the Church of Ireland:

BE IT ENACTED by the Archbishops and Bishops and the Clergy and Laity of the Church of Ireland, in General Synod assembled in Kilkenny in the year 2007, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Statute II of 1990 shall be amended by substituting for THE INSTITUTION OF AN INCUMBENT (AN ALTERNATIVE ORDER), *The Institution of an Incumbent* as set out in the Schedule to this resolution, for use in the churches of the Church of Ireland.

SCHEDULE

THE INSTITUTION OF AN INCUMBENT

The Gathering of God's People

At the entry of the ministers a hymn may be sung.

The bishop 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.

‘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 - REB

The bishop says appropriate words of welcome and introduction.

The archdeacon presents the incumbent -elect to the bishop and says

Bishop, I present for institution the Reverend, who has been nominated to serve as *incumbent of this parish.*

The bishop commends the nominee to the prayers of the congregation and silence is kept.

THE COLLECT

God our Father, Lord of all the world,
we thank you that through your Son
you have called us into the fellowship of your universal church:
Hear our prayer for your faithful people
that in their vocation and ministry
they may be instruments of your love,

and give to this your servant
the needful gifts of grace;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

When appropriate the collect of the day may be used.

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

The Ember Day readings (p.70 of the Book of Common Prayer) or the readings of the Day are used.

THE FIRST READING

THE PSALM

THE SECOND READING

A hymn, canticle or anthem may be sung.

THE GOSPEL READING

The reading is introduced with the following words:

Hear the Gospel of our saviour Christ according to Saint, chapter beginning at
verse

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

And concludes with

This is the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE SERMON

The Institution

The bishop asks the registrar to read the certificate of nomination.

THE DECLARATIONS

The First Form

The bishop says to the registrar

Let the Declarations required by the Constitution of the Church of Ireland be made and
signed.

or

The Second Form

If the declarations have already been made, the bishop asks the registrar

Have the Declarations required by the Constitution of the Church of Ireland been made
and signed?

The registrar replies

They have.

The bishop says to the churchwardens

Churchwardens, as representatives of the parishioners have you witnessed the making of these declarations?

The churchwardens reply

We have.

THE ACT OF INSTITUTION

The bishop reads the Act of Institution.

The bishop hands it to the rector and says

.... , the care of God's people in this parish is entrusted to you and to me within the body of Christ. Accept the responsibilities and privileges of this ministry as a priest in this diocese, in communion with the bishop.

Remember the solemn promises of your ordination as you encourage all God's people to be good stewards of their gifts. Care alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. By your words and in your life proclaim the Gospel.

May God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit bless you as you minister in word and sacrament to his people. Amen.

The bishop and the rector stand and face the people, and the bishop says

I present to you as your rector.

Will you support and encourage in *his* ministry, praying for *him* as *he* will pray for you?

We will.

Welcome *him* in the name of the Lord!

In the name of the Lord we greet you.

Applause may be appropriate.

A hymn may be sung.

The Commission

The First Form

The bishop says to the people

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as members of this parish you are called together to be the Body of Christ, serving God's kingdom, and living together through the power of the Holy Spirit. You are called to witness to the love of Christ and to serve others in the name of Christ.

The apostle Paul writes: 'I beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have

been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.’

Ephesians 4: 1-3

Will you follow in this way?

By the help of God, we will.

The bishop and the rector go to the DOOR, the FONT, a PRAYER DESK, the LECTERN or PULPIT and the LORD'S TABLE

At the open door, a member of the congregation says

I was glad when they said to me,
let us go to the House of the Lord. *Psalm 122: 1*

All say

**Keep watch, Lord, over our going out and our coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.**

The bishop says to the rector

Make the door of this church wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship and a Father's care, and narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and uncharitableness.

The rector says

With the help of the Lord, I will.

At the font, a member of the congregation says

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19*

All say

**God has adopted us by baptism into his church
we are members of the household of faith.**

The bishop says to the rector

See that those who are incorporated into the Church by baptism continue as living members, growing in the knowledge and love of God. Equip them to proclaim the good news, so that through their ministry others may be brought into the fellowship of Christ's Church.

The rector says

With the help of the Lord, I will.

While the rector stands at a prayer desk (which may suitably be placed in the aisle of the church to represent the offering of intercession in the name of the whole people of God) a member of the congregation says

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with

thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4: 6 RSV*

All say

**We meet together as God's people
we pray in Christ's name
God's Spirit is with us.**

The bishop says to the rector

Lead the people of God in public prayer, and by your teaching and example encourage them also to a life of personal devotion.

The rector says

With the help of the Lord, I will.

While the rector stands in the pulpit or at the lectern a member of the congregation says

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. *2 Timothy 3: 16-17*

All say

**God's word is a lantern to our feet,
a light to our paths,
a strength in our lives.**

The bishop says to the rector

Proclaim the word of God. Be faithful in preaching it so that the people may grow in godliness and understanding.

The rector says

With the help of the Lord, I will.

While the rector stands at the Lord's Table (in the position normally occupied by the presiding minister during the Great Thanksgiving) a member of the congregation says

As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. *1 Corinthians 11: 26*

All say

**We share the bread,
we drink the cup.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

The bishop says

Break the bread and bless the cup.

Celebrate this joyful thanksgiving with God's people that together you may be built up as the Body of Christ.

The rector says
With the help of the Lord, I will.

or

The Second Form

The bishop says to the people

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as members of this parish you are called together to be the Body of Christ, serving God's kingdom, and living together through the power of the Holy Spirit. You are called to witness to the love of Christ and to serve others in the name of Christ.

The apostle Paul writes: 'I beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.'

Ephesians 4: 1-3

Will you follow in this way?
By the help of God, we will.

The bishop and the rector stand before the congregation.

Members of the congregation bring forward symbols of the teaching, pastoral and sacramental ministry of an incumbent.

A member of the congregation presents a Bible to the rector and says

'All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work'. *2 Timothy 3: 16-17*

The bishop says

.... , receive this Bible, and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ

The rector says
With the help of the Lord, I will.

All say
**God's word is a lantern to our feet,
a light to our paths,
a strength in our lives.**

A container of water is presented, with these words:

'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'. *Matthew 28: 19*

The bishop says

.... , receive this water and in this place share in my ministry to baptize in the name of the

Holy Trinity.

The rector says

With the help of the Lord, I will.

All say

God has adopted us by baptism into his church.

We are members of the household of faith.

A member of the congregation presents a Book of Common Prayer, saying

‘Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus’. *Philippians 4: 6*

The bishop says

...., receive this Book and be among us as one who leads public prayer and encourages in us a life of personal devotion.

The rector says

With the help of the Lord, I will.

All say

We meet together as God’s people

we pray in Christ’s name

God’s Spirit is with us.

A member of the congregation presents bread and wine and says

‘As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes’. *1 Corinthians 11: 26*

The bishop says

...., take this bread and wine and be among us to break the bread and to bless the cup, with reverence and with joy.

The rector says

With the help of the Lord, I will.

All say

We share the bread

we drink the cup.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Any of the following symbols may also be used, depending on local circumstances and at the discretion of the bishop.

An appropriate person presents oil, saying

‘A Samaritan...went to the man and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them.’ *Luke 10: 33-34*

The bishop says

...., use this oil and be among us as a healer and reconciler.

The rector says

With the help of the Lord, I will.

All say

May our Heavenly Father grant us the inward anointing of the Holy Spirit and restore us to wholeness and strength.

A churchwarden brings forward the key of the church and says

‘I was glad when they said to me,
let us go to the House of the Lord.’ *Psalm 122: 1*

The bishop says

...., receive this key and let the doors of this place be open to all people.

The rector says

With the help of the Lord, I will.

All say

**Keep watch O Lord over our going out and our coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.**

A towel is presented, with these words:

‘If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.’ *John 13: 14*

The bishop says

...., receive this towel and be a servant and a support to those in need and in trouble.

The rector says

With the help of the Lord, I will.

All say

**Give us the will to be the servants of others
as Jesus Christ was the servant of all.**

Other symbols, pertinent to the ministry to be undertaken, may be included where appropriate.

The bishop may place the rector in the accustomed prayer desk or stall.

The rector alone kneels before the bishop and the bishop says

...., the care of God’s people in this parish has been committed to you.
May the Lord pour out his Holy Spirit on you and equip you to fulfil the sacred duties
with which you have been entrusted.

Rector **Amen.**

May he give you the spirit of power and of love and of a sound judgement.
May he guard you against the snares of temptation and keep you pure in heart and
steadfast in the right way.

Rector **Amen.**

In prayer, may the Lord bring new life to your devotion;
In praise, may he deepen your love and gratitude;
And may he grant you the needful gifts of grace to the glory of his name.

Rector **Amen.**

Silence is kept and then the rector says

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
strengthen and sustain me in this ministry to which I have been called.
Give me the vision of your glory
and make me worthy of my calling. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The rector, or the bishop when the Eucharist is being celebrated, says

We are the body of Christ,
in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

All present exchange a sign of peace.

*It is appropriate that representatives of the parish, other churches in the local area and the wider
local community have an opportunity to greet the rector.*

A hymn may be sung.

The Prayers of the People

When there is no Holy Communion the rector leads intercessions and thanksgivings.

Such prayers may appropriately include reference to

The ministry of all the baptized

The continuity of ministry in this parish

*The witness of the local Christian community and the need for peace and understanding
between all faithful people*

Those in need

Remembrance of, and thanksgiving for, the faithful departed.

*If a versicle and response are required after each section, one of the following may be said or
sung:*

Lord, in your mercy:

hear our prayer.

or

Lord, hear us:

Lord, graciously hear us.

or

Kyrie eleison.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

Our Father...

The incumbent gives notice of celebrations of the Holy Communion on the following Sunday.

A hymn may be sung.

Going out as God's People

BLESSING

The bishop says

Almighty God stir up in you the gifts of his grace,
and sustain each one of you in your ministry;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

When Holy Communion Two is celebrated it continues at Celebrating at the Lord's Table in the Book of Common Prayer (page 208), Holy Communion One at Lift up your hearts... (page 186).

PROPER PREFACE

Within the royal priesthood of the church
you ordain ministers to proclaim the Word of God,
to care for your people
and to celebrate the sacraments of the new covenant.

The new incumbent should assist the bishop in the administration of the Holy Communion.

NOTES

1. On the first Sunday on which a minister officiates in a church of a parish or parochial group or union to which he has been instituted there shall always be a celebration of the Holy Communion at the principal service.
2. If the bishop is unable to be present he may appoint a deputy to preside at The Institution of an Incumbent. In this instance, the words 'and to me' in the paragraph following the delivery of the Act of Institution are amended to read 'and to the bishop'. In a similar manner when the archdeacon is unable to fulfil his designated role a deputy may be appointed
3. The above order including the title of the service may be adapted for use at the licensing of a bishop's curate, vicar or chaplain.
4. When the first form of the commission is used, it is important that the font is uncovered and contains water, a Book of Common Prayer be placed at the prayer desk, a Bible be open on the lectern or pulpit, and the Holy Table be covered with a fair linen cloth.
When the second form of the Commission is used, it may be appropriate for some or all of the items presented to the incumbent to be brought from the point in the church where they would normally be located.
5. Where the declarations are made in the vestry the text should be included on the service sheet.
6. The Preamble and Declaration to the Constitution of the Church of Ireland may be found in the *Book of Common Prayer* (page 776). The Articles of Religion may be found in the *Book of Common Prayer* (page 778)
7. Scriptural quotations, except where otherwise indicated, are from the *New Revised Standard Version* of the Bible © 1989 The Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Christian Churches of the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.