

Lord, we ask for the grace to become your evangelising witnesses in thought, word and action,

Lord, hear our prayer.

If anyone would like to offer a prayer intention, please do so ...

... Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray together the Lord's Prayer, *Our Father*...

Final Prayer

As our time of prayer together comes to an end we say together.....

If the Blessed Sacrament IS exposed

Lord Jesus, thank you for this time we have spent in your presence. Thank you for the many gifts you have given us. We ask you to bless and strengthen all those who have responded generously to your invitation to the priesthood and to the diaconate. We ask you to bless and sustain them in their ministry.

Confident in your unending love, we place our prayer before you. Amen

If the Blessed Sacrament is NOT exposed

Loving Father, thank you for this time we have spent in your presence. Thank you for the many gifts you have given us. We ask you to bless and strengthen all those who have responded generously to your invitation to the priesthood and to the diaconate. We ask you to bless and sustain them in their ministry. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A Gospel reading to take home for further reflection and prayer

'As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men". And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.'

Matthew 4: 18 - 22

The Priesthood and Diaconate

A Holy Hour

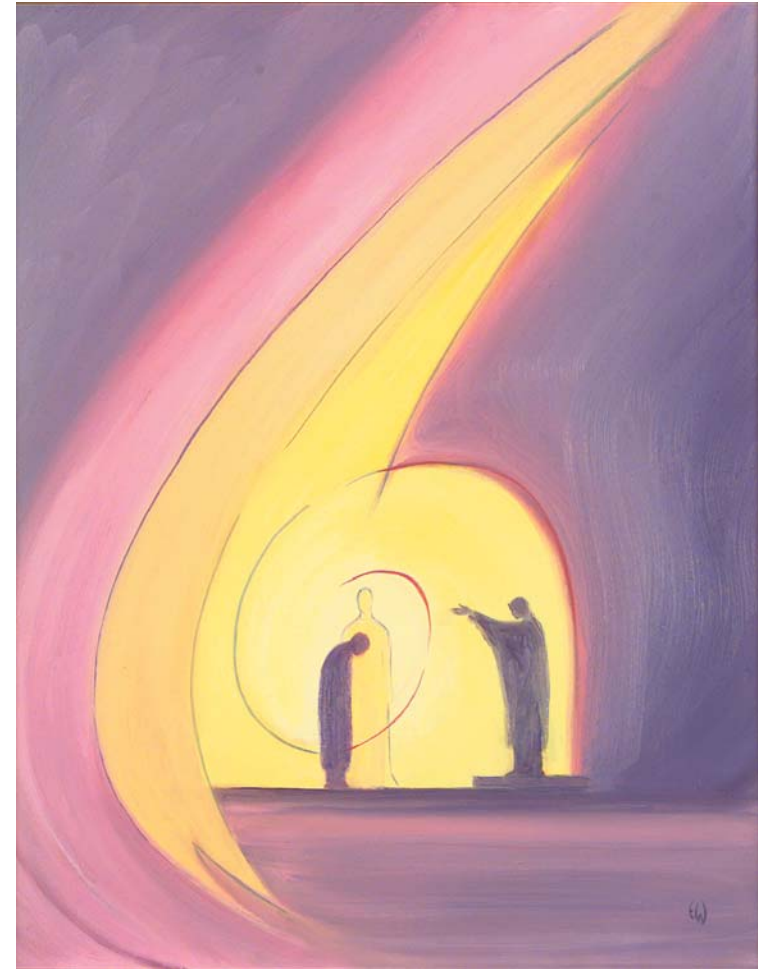


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**Enthusing, Engaging,
Equipping**

Called into God's wonderful light

Booklet Six

Holy Hour Six
The Priesthood and Diaconate

Prayer focus: Tonight we consider the ordained ministries of priesthood and diaconate. Though we are all part of the royal priesthood because of our baptism, we recognise that the Father calls men from among our community to serve in a special way as priests and deacons.

Suggested hymns:

All that I am, all that I do; Follow me, follow me; I the Lord of sea and sky; Send me Jesus, send me Jesus; Send us as your blessing, Lord; Servant King; Show me your ways; Take me Lord, use my life; Take my life and let it be; Veni Sanctus Spiritus; Will you let me be your servant?

Welcome and introduction

Hymn (3 mins)

Scripture Psalm 110:3-4 (3 mins)
You are a priest for ever, of the order of Melchizedek

PAUSE (1 min)

Reflection (2 mins)
(Pause after each point).

- We thank you Lord, that by the grace of our baptism, we too are a holy people, members of your royal nation, a priestly people.
- Thank you Lord for the calling you have given each one of us, to love and serve.
- Thank you Lord, for the gift of the priesthood in the life of the Church and especially for Father(s)....., the priest(s) serving our parish.
- Thank you Lord, for the very special ministry which deacons exercise: of preaching, of pastoral care - of supporting the priest in all that he does.
If your parish is fortunate enough to have a deacon, you may also want to add a prayer for him and his family: Thank you Lord, for the gift ofin the work he freely and generously undertakes in this parish.

Silent prayer (5 mins)

Scripture reading Hebrews 5: 1 – 4 (ending on “called by God”). (2 mins)
Jesus, the compassionate high priest

PAUSE (1 min)

Lord Jesus, in this time of silence we desire for you to reveal to us ever more deeply our vocation and calling in life as a priestly people. As you offered your life freely for others, give us the grace now, to offer our lives to you without counting the cost.

Silent prayer (5 mins)

Hymn

Gospel Reading Matthew 4:18-22 (3 mins)
The call of the first disciples

PAUSE (1 min)

Reflection
(Pause after every point)

- Lord, we thank you for the words we have heard in the Gospel today.
- We thank you that each person here has been called by you individually to spread the Good News of your mercy and love.
- In these next few moments of silence reveal to us how we can follow you in a new way in our lives.

Silent prayer (10 mins)

Litany of praise and intercession

Loving Father, thank you for those you call to serve the Church in the ministerial priesthood,

Father, we praise and thank you for your love.

Thank you for their generous response,

Father, we praise and thank you for your love.

Thank you for Fr who you have given to serve us in our parish,

Father, we praise and thank you for your love.

Thank you for the ministry and witness of deacons in the church,

Father, we praise and thank you for your love.

Thank you for this gift, the sacrament of Holy Orders,

Father, we praise and thank you for your love.

Lord, we ask you for every blessing on our family and friends,

Lord hear our prayer.

Lord, we bring before you all the needs of our parish and Church,

Lord hear our prayer.

Lord, we ask you for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, we ask you to bless all those you call to married life and all lay single people in their daily lives and commitments,

Lord, hear our prayer.