

Roles and Responsibility of those in Minor Orders

The minor orders in OCAC are:

Cleric - which may be by admission or ordination; others by ordination only.

Doorkeeper, the next progression,

Reader, the Order; not to be confused with lay reader.

Exorcists, (exorcisms are now carried out by priests)

Acolyte, where the altar layout is learned.

Sub-deacon; the highest minor order and a grade of probation for the higher orders.

Each minor order is equal in status, except the higher grades indicate a greater level of experience and progression.

Your faculties (licence) prove that OCAC has empowered you as a minor cleric to do these roles and duties.

You must:

1. Pray regularly for yourself and others.
 2. Be obedient to Christ in all you do.
 3. Be obedient to the Canon Law of OCAC and your mentor and Ordinary.
 4. Always seek to encourage others to join OCAC - evangelism.
 5. Continue your study and progression.
 6. Wear your cassock and surplice or alb and cincture when taking services, but you can't wear a clerical collar* until you are sub-deacon.
- *You may wear a clerical collar when asked to by your mentor or ordinary for special services like synod or consecrations.
7. Read the Bible to yourself and others.
 8. Always follow codes of conduct suggested by the church.
 9. Be dutiful, honest and diligent; clean and respectable.
 10. You must notify your mentor or ordinary of any circumstance which may affect your ministry.
 11. You need to regularly speak with your mentor, and Ordinary. This can be by phone, email or skype.

Services you may hold

As a minor cleric in OCAC you are the same 'rank' as a deacon in the non-episcopal churches, so you are the same as say, a UK Methodist or URC deacon. In those churches deacon is not an order, but a description of an assistant (pastoral) minister; as you are.

We value the role of minor orders in OCAC because you do real ministry: at the sharp end.

You are authorised by the church to:

Hold prayer meetings

Hold prayer vigils

Take the service of Morning Prayer (Prime, also called Matins by Anglicans)

Take the service of Evening Prayer (Complin, as a sub-deacon you may say Vespers)

Take school Assemblies

Take a service of healing (but only using prayer and not holy oils; not unction).

Baptise (in urgent situations but only in the absence of a deacon or priest)

Act as server at any service as required (including public services such as weddings).

Undertake pastoral visits (remembering to always refer to your mentor people who need extra prayer or assistance)

Represent OCAC (& of course Christ) at civic events i.e. remembrance parades, public funerals etc.

Take funerals for friends or relatives, but you must ask your mentor for permission.

Take a service of dispersal of ashes after cremation.

Take services of prayerful remembrance for individuals (but only where a funeral has already been held, i.e. not missing presumed dead; where a prayer vigil is preferred).

Administer the reserved sacrament at the homes of the sick, when asked to by your mentor.

Read the epistle at Mass, and this is done by highest order, that is, if a sub-deacon is present they do it; if not the next order.

Take Bible classes

Take 'Sunday Schools' or youth services, youth clubs.

Preach at OCAC churches (and other churches), by invitation.

Take intercessory prayer at services by invitation.

Take preparatory prayer before the service; with the choir and clergy.

Take services of musical celebration; concerts, recitals, carol services etc.

Take ceremonial (non-sacramental) services; naming ceremonies, blessing of animals etc.

Your status in the church

For the avoidance of doubt; you are full and proper ministers of Christ and OCAC, but you are in Minor Orders and so still have levels of progression to achieve. This does not mean that your ministry is any less effective, but it does mean that there is extra responsibility yet to be devolved to you as your ministry progresses. Your mentor and your Ordinary will do all in their power to strengthen and encourage you, and help you progress in your ministry.

Vestments

In minor orders you may wear:

Black, brown or dark coloured Cassock, (with small pectoral cross of wood, or badge)

A white surplice may be worn over the cassock.

White Alb & cincture (with small pectoral cross of wood, or badge)

A Geneva gown in black may be worn over secular clothing (even if you do not have a degree, you may wear it by virtue of your minor order).

Alternatively you may wear your Habit of religious order – if a member.

In addition: Amice, Maniple and Tunicle if a Sub-deacon.

Title

There is no title for those in Minor Orders, except when the Sub-diaconate is reached when you may assume the title Reverend. Those in Religious Orders will continue to use their Brother or Sister titles. When writing, you may use '(Minor Orders)' after your name if you wish.