

THE BLESSING OF ALTAR WARE & REGALIA

Words to be said are in this style: **All:** say these words.

Instructions are in italics.

This service is NOT for the consecration of the altar, or the chapel/oratory itself.

The priest is vested with purple stole. Holy Water is available in a shallow dish or aspergillum. The items to be blessed are arranged in suitable form on a suitable table before the altar. If this service is held in the chapel or oratory where the altar items will be used, the altar shall remain bare until the conclusion of this service, when the items may be placed.

If regalia or vestments are being blessed, suitable means of hanging the items in the sanctuary should be provided. It is not suitable to hold the blessing of vestments in the vestry, although the vestry itself may be blessed if desired whilst empty.

The Exorcism

The priest sprinkles Holy Water in the form of a cross on the items being blessed and says:

Priest: I exorcise these (name of items), by the living + God, by the holy + God, by the omnipotent + God, that you may be purified from all evil influence, in the name of the Most High Lord, who fills the earth with majesty and glory.

All: Amen.

The priest holds his hands over the items being blessed and keeps silence. After a short pause he lifts his hands and says:

Priest: We pray, O God, in your boundless lovingkindness to stretch out the right hand of your power over these (name of items), which we + bless and + hallow in your holy name. Grant that these instruments of your grace may make for health of mind and body to all who see, use or partake from them and that every power of adversity and every illusion or artifice of disharmony may be driven away from the place where they are used; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Prayer of Blessing

If the priest is wearing a purple/white or purple/golden reversible stole, the white or gold stole is now used. With hands held out over the items the priest says:

Priest: O God, the giver of invincible strength and king of irresistible power, whose splendour shines throughout the whole of creation, we pray you will look upon this collection of (names of items), to pour down upon them/it the radiance of your + blessing and to + hallow them/it with the dew of your lovingkindness, that wherever they shall be used and Your Holy Name be invoked in prayer, every noble aspiration may be

strengthened, every good resolve made firm and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit affirmed to us who place our trust in You; who with the Son lives and reigns in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, God throughout all ages of ages.

All: Amen.

Priest: Peace be upon these items, now and for evermore. Amen.

All: Amen.