

# ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

## MODEL

### RITE OF INDUCTION OF A PARISH PRIEST

- *The Ceremony of Induction is an occasion when a new Parish Priest is formally presented to the parish in a liturgical context. The ceremony is so arranged to remind priest and people of their responsibility together before God to serve Christ in his Church, and by their holiness and the example of their lives, individually and as a local community, to promote the mission of their Lord. Following the appointment of the Parish Priest by the Archbishop, it is fitting that he be suitably introduced to the people of the parish and in turn to be welcomed by them.*
- *The Archbishop has decided that, if he does not do so himself, the ceremony will be performed by the Area Bishop or, in his absence, the Dean.*
- *The Dean should be present at the Ceremony. He reads the Letter of Appointment.*
- *The Induction Ceremony is an appropriate occasion to show the unity and fraternity of the Presbyterium. It is desirable, therefore, that other priests, especially those of the Deanery, diocesan and religious, be invited to concelebrate. Also any deacon in the Deanery should be invited to assist at the ceremony.*
- *Representatives of the various parish organisations should be invited to take part in the Readings, the Bidding Prayers and the Procession of the Gifts. A representative of the Deanery Pastoral Council should be invited.*
- *It is desirable that members of other Churches should be invited and, where appropriate, representatives of the Civic Authorities.*
- *The Mass will be of the Day or a suitable Votive Mass, if this is allowed. Alternative readings may be chosen if this will be of pastoral help to the people.*
- *After the Gospel, the homily is preached by the Principal Celebrant.*
- *The Induction Ceremony then follows.*

## **The Rite of Induction**

### ***The Reading of the Letter***

*ALL SIT*

*The Bishop sits in front of the altar. The Parish Priest should be seated in a prominent place where he can be seen by the congregation.*

*The Dean stands.*

**DEAN** My Lord, as Dean of the X Deanery,  
I ask you to induct the Reverend X, as Parish Priest of X.

**BISHOP** Have you a letter of appointment?

**DEAN** We have.

**BISHOP** Let it be read.

*The Dean [or any Priest should the Dean be the Principal Celebrant] reads the Letter of Appointment from the Archbishop. Afterwards the documents are signed. This should take place at a table in sight of the people. The signing should not be done on the altar.*

### ***The Profession of Faith***

**BISHOP** In the name of His Grace the Archbishop of Southwark,  
I call upon you, Fr. X.,  
to make your Profession of Faith.

*The new Parish Priest kneels before the Bishop. Placing his right hand on the Book of the Gospels, he makes the Profession of Faith according to the usual formula.*

*Once he has done so the Bishop then questions the new Parish Priest and the people.*

### ***The Questions to priest and people***

**BISHOP** It is the duty of the Priest to proclaim the word of God.  
He must study the Bible and meditate on its message,  
believe what he reads,  
teaches what he believes and practices what he teaches.  
Are you willing to co-operate with your Archbishop  
in preaching Christ in season and out of season,  
explaining to all the Word of God?

**PRIEST** I am, with the help of God.

**BISHOP** People of this parish of X,  
we are all called to preach Christ  
by the witness of a good life  
and to hand on the faith to our children.  
Are you willing to do this?

**PEOPLE** We are, with the help of God.

**BISHOP** The priest gathers together the people of God for prayer  
and sustains them as they go forth  
to carry out the mission of the Church to the world.  
Are you ready to pray with the people as well as for them,  
and to lead and encourage them in their apostolate in the world?

**PRIEST** I am, with the help of God.

**BISHOP** People of this parish,  
you share in the work of the Church.  
Will you work and pray together in love,  
seeking through prayer and service  
to grow in the knowledge of the Father  
and to make the Gospel known throughout the world?

**PEOPLE** We are, with the help of God.

**BISHOP** The priest cares for the people  
by celebrating with them the Sacraments.  
When he baptises,  
he brings men and women into the Family of God;  
he witnesses their marriage vows;  
in the Sacrament of Reconciliation he forgives sins  
in the name of Christ and His Church;  
with holy oil, he strengthens and consoles the sick and the dying.  
Will you prepare your people by wise instruction  
to receive the Sacraments worthily and fruitfully?

**PRIEST** I will, with the help of God.

**BISHOP** People of this parish,  
will you co-operate in preparing for the reception of the Sacraments?

**PEOPLE** We will, with the help of God.

**BISHOP** It is the priest's privilege and duty  
to celebrate the Sacrifice of the Mass  
to proclaim the Lord's death until He comes,  
and to feed the people with the Body and Blood of Christ.  
Are you willing to celebrate the Mass faithfully  
for the living and dead as the Church ordains  
for the glory of God and the sanctification of Christ's people?

**PRIEST** I am, with the help of God.

**BISHOP** People of this parish,  
will you faithfully participate in the Sacred Mysteries  
of Christ's Body and Blood  
so that the Church may be built up as the Body of Christ?

**PEOPLE** We are, with the help of God.

**BISHOP** The priest is called to promote justice and peace  
among all peoples  
and to share the Good News with all who are persecuted,  
marginalised and underprivileged in society.  
Are you willing to strive for justice and understanding  
between all people,  
based on the Truth of the Gospel?

**PRIEST** I am, with the help of God.

**BISHOP** People of this parish,  
are you willing to work for justice and peace  
in your homes and places of work  
in the light of the Gospel?

**PEOPLE** We are, with the help of God.

**BISHOP** It is the priest's privilege and duty  
to sustain and guide his people along the way to unity  
with all Christians  
and to seek the gifts of unity and peace for the world.  
Are you willing to work zealously to overcome division  
and to seek the unity for which Jesus prayed?

**PRIEST** I am, with the help of God.

**BISHOP** People of this parish,  
will you co-operate with all Christians  
to promote the work of true unity?

**PEOPLE** We are, with the help of God.

**BISHOP** The priest must be without reproach  
and his endeavour gives no ground for scandal  
for he is the ambassador of Christ.  
Are you resolved to carry out your duties as a parish priest  
giving no grounds for reproach?

**PRIEST** I am, with the help of God.

**BISHOP** People of this parish,  
will you support in every way your parish priest?

**PEOPLE** We will, with the help of God.

**ALL STAND**

**BISHOP** Let us pray.

God our Father,  
look upon X, your servant and co-worker  
with the Archbishop in this place.  
May his word and example inspire and guide your people here  
and may he and all those in his care  
come to the joy of everlasting life.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**PEOPLE** Amen.

**ALL SIT**

*The Installation*

*The new Parish Priest is led by the Bishop to the Presidential Chair and is seated in it.*

**BISHOP** In the name of His Grace the Archbishop of Southwark,  
I give you the document of your appointment  
and I entrust to you the keys of the church.

*The greetings*

*The new parish priest stands and faces the congregation.*

**PRIEST** I greet you all in the name of Jesus the Lord.

**PEOPLE** We welcome you among us in his name.

*If appropriate the parish priest greets the representatives of the other Christian communities who are present.*

*The representatives stand.*

**PRIEST** Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
I thank you for your presence  
and take this opportunity to promise that I will work with you  
for the unity and care of the people of God.

**MINISTERS** We welcome you among us and cherish your promise.

*The representatives sit.*

*If appropriate the priest then greets the representatives of the local and civic authorities who are present.*

*The representatives stand.*

**PRIEST** I welcome your presence  
and promise to co-operate with you  
for the good of the community.

**REPRESENTATIVES**

We welcome your help in the service of the community.

*The Bishop then leads the Parish Priest to the ambo where he briefly addresses the congregation unless he wishes to do so after the Prayer after Communion.*

*The Mass continues with the Bidding Prayer.*

*This is one of a number of model liturgies prepared by the Commission and provided for use within the Diocese. It should be adapted to meet local needs and circumstances.*

**Copyright Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark, 2007  
All rights reserved.**