

MINISTRY TO THE SICK CANON 1981

Canon 5, 1981

A canon to authorise the use of certain forms of service for ministry to the sick.

The General Synod prescribes as follows:

1. This canon may be cited as "the Ministry to the Sick Canon 1981".
2. The use by this Church of the forms of service for Ministry to the Sick set out in the Schedule hereto, in accordance with the rubrics incorporated therein, is hereby authorised.
3. The synod of a diocese may by ordinance regulate the use in the diocese of the forms of service set out in the Schedule hereto.
4.
 - (1) Subject to this section, the bishop of a diocese may, upon request being submitted to him, authorise deviations from the forms of service set out in the Schedule hereto.
 - (2) The procedures set out in the second and third provisos to Section 4 of the Constitution apply to and in relation to the submission of requests to the bishop of a diocese under sub-section (1) in like manner as they apply to and in relation to the submission of requests for deviations from the Book of Common Prayer.
 - (3) Nothing in this section permits a deviation contravening a principle of doctrine or worship referred to in Section 4 of the Constitution.
5. A minister of this Church is not bound hereby to lay hands on or anoint the sick.
6. This canon affects the order and good government of the Church within a diocese and shall not come into force in any diocese unless and until the diocese by ordinance adopts the canon.

SCHEDULE

Form of Service for the Anointing of the Sick and Laying on of Hands

NOTES

1. It is desirable that the priest be notified of the illness of any member of the congregation.
2. The forms provided here are to be used for those who desire this ministry and have received such instruction as their condition permits. The forms may be used at home, or in hospital, or wherever the sick person is being cared for. The forms may also be used within a service of public worship in church.
3. The minister shall be a priest or in case of necessity one deputed by him.
4. The prayers "for healing" or "for a sick child" (An Australian Prayer Book pages 570-575) may also be used.

‡ 1 The minister may say

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

2a The minister may use readings from the Ministration to the Sick (An Australian Prayer Book pages 569-570).

b When anointing is desired he shall read

In the Letter of James we read: Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins one to another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. James 5:14-16a

c When laying on of hands is desired, he shall read this or some other suitable verses from the Bible.

Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Jesus; and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. Luke 4:40

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

‡ 3 The minister may ask the sick person

Do you ask for this ministry?

I do

4 Unless it has already been said, a suitable form of confession should be used here. This may be in the sick person's own words, or the following form:

**Merciful God, my maker and my judge,
I have sinned against you in thought, word and deed:
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved my neighbour as myself;
I repent, and am sorry for all my sins.
Father, forgive me.
Strengthen me to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Or this

**Lord and heavenly Father,
I confess that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed through
my own fault; and especially I have sinned in this way ...
For these sins I am truly sorry and firmly purpose to amend my
life.
I ask your forgiveness,
for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

The priest announces the Absolution, either in the following form.

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith,
pardon you and set you free from all your sins, and strengthen you
to do his will,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Or this

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who has left power to his Church to absolve
all sinners who truly repent and believe in him, of his great mercy
forgive you your offences: and by his authority committed to me I
absolve you from all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

or the minister may say this word of assurance

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not of ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:1, 2

5 If the anointing of the sick is not to be administered, the service continues with the laying on of hands at #9.

6 The minister says

Almighty God, your apostle James encouraged the sick to call for the elders of the Church, that they might pray over them and anoint them with oil; be pleased to use this oil for your purpose. Grant that *he* who is anointed with it may be strengthened by your Holy Spirit, healed and restored, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

7 The minister anoints the sick person, saying

N., I anoint you in the name of the Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

or

N., In the faith of Jesus Christ, I anoint you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

8 If the laying on of hands is not to be administered, the service continues with the prayer at #10.

9 Those present may join in the laying on of hands with the minister, saying

N., *We lay our* hands on you, in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

10 The minister says

Almighty God, giver of life and health, grant you release from pain, refreshment of spirit, and wholeness in body and mind. **Amen.**

A time of silent prayer now follows, after which the Lord's Prayer may be said.

**Our father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**

now and for ever. Amen.

- ‡ 11 The person who has been anointed or has received the laying on of hands may return thanks using *his own words, or the following prayer*

Lord Jesus, your love never fails. Thank you for this assurance that your hands are stretched out to me, to forgive, to strengthen, and to heal. Amen.

or

Thanks be to God.

This Thanksgiving is also appropriate.

**Most merciful Father, we humbly thank you
for all your gifts so freely bestowed upon us.
For life and health and safety,
for power to work and leisure to rest,
and for all that is beautiful in creation and in the lives of men,
we praise and glorify your holy Name.
But, above all, we thank you
for the means of grace,
and for the hope of glory.
Fill our hearts with all joy and peace in believing;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

- 12 The minister says

The almighty God, who is a most strong tower to all that put their trust in him, and to whom all things in heaven and earth do bow and obey; be now and always your defence, and make you know and feel that there is no other name under heaven given to man, in whom and through whom you may receive health and salvation, but only the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

(Note: In the official copy, the rubrics are printed red)