



# Papal Visit Legacy Material

## Parish Mission Commissioning

### May 2011

A format for an annual Parish Mission Commissioning

**Called and Sent: To be used on or around Pentecost Sunday**

This resource is offered in support of the ongoing legacy of Pope Benedict XVI's 2011 visit to the UK.



**Priest:** In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

**All:** Amen

**Priest:** May the Lord, who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light, be with you all.

**All:** And also with you.

**Priest:** My dear friends, as we take part in today's celebration we are in a sense reliving a practice of the early Church, the eager sending of its members to other peoples, to assist those who are already of the household of faith or those who do not yet believe in Christ.

**All pray briefly in silence.**

**Priest:** Our God and Father, your will is that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of your truth. Send workers into your great harvest, so that the Gospel may be preached to every creature and your people, gathered together by the Word of Life, and strengthened by the power of the sacraments, may advance in salvation and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

**Gospel Reading:** A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Luke (Luke 4:16-19)

**All:** Glory to you, Lord

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom.

He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written:

**'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'**

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**All:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Intercessions

**Priest:** Let us pray together to God, our merciful Father. He anointed his own Son with the Holy Spirit to preach the Good News to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted and to comfort the sorrowful.

With great confidence we therefore say:

**All:** Lord, may all your people praise you.

**Reader 1:** God of everlasting mercy, your will is that all people should be saved and come to the knowledge of your truth; we give you thanks for sending your only Son into the world as our Teacher and Redeemer.

All: Lord, may all your people praise you.

**Reader 1:** You sent Jesus Christ to preach the Good News to the poor, to proclaim the release of captives and to announce the age of grace; grant that the embrace of your Church may extend to people of every tongue and every nation.

All: Lord, may all your people praise you.

**Reader 2:** You call all peoples out of darkness into your marvellous light, so that at the Name of Jesus every knee must bend in heaven, on earth and under the earth; enable us to bear true witness to the Gospel of Salvation.

All: Lord, may all your people praise you.

**Reader 2:** Give us hearts that are upright and simple, so that we will be open to your Word; make our lives and all the world rich in works of holiness.

All: Lord, may all your people praise you.  
Prayer of Blessing

**The priest holds his hands outstretched over those gathered, as he says the prayer of blessing.**

We bless you, O God, and we praise your Name. In your merciful providence you sent your Son into the world to free us from the bondage of sin by his own blood and to enrich us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Before he returned, triumphant over death, to you, Father, he sent his apostles, the bearers of his love and power, to proclaim the Gospel of life to all peoples and in the waters of baptism to cleanse those who believe.

Lord, look kindly on your servants: we send them forth as messengers of salvation and peace, marked with the sign of the cross. Guide their steps with your mighty arm and with the power of your grace strengthen them in spirit, so that they will not falter through weariness. Make their words to those they meet on their pilgrimage echo those of Christ's voice, so that those who hear them will be drawn to obey the Gospel.

Fill their hearts with the Holy Spirit, so that becoming all things to all people, they may lead many to you, the Father of all, to sing your praises in your holy Church.

All: Amen

**Members of the parish are now invited to come forward and kneel before the priest. The priest then makes the sign of the cross on each person's forehead and says to each one:**

'Receive this sign of Christ's love and of our faith. Preach the Crucified Christ, who is the Power and Wisdom of God.'

**And each person replies:** Amen

**Once each individual has been commissioned they are invited to return to their place.**

**The priest, with hands outstretched over all those gathered, concludes the rite by saying:**

May God, who in Christ has shown us his truth and love, make you messengers of the Gospel and witnesses to the divine love before all the world.

All: Amen

May the Lord Jesus Christ, who promised that he would be with his Church until the end of time, guide your steps and fill your words with power.

All: Amen

May the Spirit of the Lord be upon you, enabling you to go through the world to bring the Good News to the lowly and heal the broken-hearted.

All: Amen

And may Almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

**End by saying together:**

God of truth and love, your Son, Jesus Christ, stands as the light to all who seek you with a sincere heart. As we strive by your grace to be faithful in word and deed, may we reflect the kindly light of Christ and offer a witness of hope and peace to all. We pray for Pope Benedict. May he be a witness to the unity and hope which is your will for all people. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Our Lady, Mother of the Church — pray for us.**

**St Andrew — pray for us.**

**St George — pray for us.**

**St David — pray for us.**

**Blessed John Henry Newman — pray for us.**

This service was provided by the Diocese of Northampton working in partnership with the Home Mission Desk of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Westminster in service of the Papal Visit 2010. It has since been adapted from the English translation of 'Order for the Blessing of Missionaries sent to proclaim the gospel' (chapter 3), Book of Blessings, Liturgical Press 1989 as prepared by International, Commission on English in the Liturgy, © 1973, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. <http://www.icelweb.org/copyright.htm>

**To pray at home: Radiating Christ  
by John Henry Cardinal Newman (1801–1890)**

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Thy fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with Thy spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of Thine. Shine through me, and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Thy presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus!

Stay with me, and then I shall begin to shine as Thou shinest, so to shine as to be a light to others; the light, O Jesus, will be all from Thee; none of it will be mine; it will be Thou shining on others through me. Let me thus praise Thee in the way Thou dost love best by shining on those around me. Let me preach Thee without preaching, not by words but by my example, by the catching force of the sympathetic influence of what I do, the evident fullness of the love my heart bears to Thee.

Amen

Sourced from: <http://www.thepapalvisit.org.uk/2010-Visit/Papal-Visit-Resources/Parish-Resources/Prayer/Intinerary-Prayer/Day-3/Radiating-Christ>

To find out more about the work of Home Mission in England and Wales please see: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Home-Mission>

Pentecost image on page one from: [www.istockphoto.com](http://www.istockphoto.com)