

THE HEALING CHURCH

People often turned to Jesus for healing sometimes for themselves and sometimes for others. Jesus brought healing and peace by his words and by his touch. Many found healing and peace simply by being with him

Jesus sent his disciples out with the authority to heal the sick as part of their work in spreading the Good News. After the Resurrection they continued this work. As the Church grew, the healing ministry came to be expressed in the laying-on of hands with prayer, and in anointing the sick with oil.

We can read about the anointing of the sick in the letter of James:

If one of you is ill, he should send for the elders of the Church, and they must anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord and pray over him. The prayer of faith will save the sick man and the Lord will raise him up again, and if he has committed any sins he will be forgiven.

(James 5: 14-15)

Through the centuries the Church has celebrated the anointing of the sick with olive oil blessed for this purpose. The sacrament has been known by different names at various times. Today we call it "The Sacrament of the Sick".



WHAT HAPPENS?

Before the Sacrament of the Sick is celebrated, the priest and the sick person usually spend time together talking about what is to happen. The Sacrament can be celebrated in Church, often during the Eucharist, or the priest can come to the sick person at home or in hospital.

The service begins with an opportunity to call to mind our sins and to ask and receive God's forgiveness. This can make us

more receptive to his healing love. Then a Scripture reading follows. Next, the priest lays hands on the sick person's head in silence. When the priest goes on to anoint the forehead the priest says (or words similar):

N, I anoint you in the name of God who gives you life. Receive Christ's forgiveness, his healing and his love.

As the priest anoints the sick person's hands he says:

May the father of our Lord Jesus Christ grant you the riches of his grace, his wholeness and his peace. Amen

Some prayers may follow and the service ends with a Blessing, or continues with a form of communion.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

We believe our whole life is wrapped up in God's love. The Sacrament of the Sick shows us that God, through Christ, cares for us in our sickness as well as in our health. God looks after us and meets our needs in many ways - by feeding us at the Mass, by blessing our marriages and by forgiving our sins. In this Sacrament, through anointing with oil, God helps us to find healing and strength.

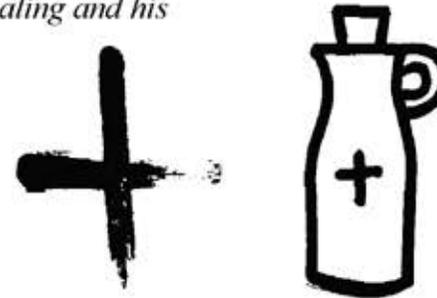
HEALING, NOT A MAGIC CURE

We can be sure that God will answer our prayer for healing and strength. We may not find ourselves cured of an illness or relieved from pain. But God's healing may come in other ways. God may help us face our illness or pain with new courage. Or may lead us gently to accept death as the natural end to our illness and the way to a closer relationship with God in glory.

CLEARING UP A MISUNDERSTANDING

Many believe that if someone is anointed in the Sacrament of the Sick, it means they are about to die. This is a misunderstanding which the new service helps to clear up. In the past it is true that the full meaning of the Sacrament had been partly lost, and people were usually anointed only during the "Last Rites" or "Extreme

Unction". The modern service makes it clear that the Sacrament of the Sick is very much for the living. It is a celebration of God's love and care for God's people in illness of body or mind.



Anointing the sick

WHEN CAN I ASK FOR THE SACRAMENT?

Coughs and colds usually sort themselves out, perhaps with the help of some medicine. But medicine bottles always carry a label saying "if symptoms persist, consult your doctor". Even when we have been receiving medical care an illness may drag on and get us down. This may be time to ask for the Sacrament.

Illness can be more complicated than it first seems. Anxiety and worry can make us ill. We can become depressed and feel all out of joint with life. Through the Sacrament of the Sick God may help us to become less anxious.

For people facing surgery, even a minor operation, the Sacrament can assure us of God's love and bring confidence and trust in a testing time.

People oftenturnedtoJesusforhealing. They found strength and peace in His presence and in His words and healing touch.

If you are looking for the peace and healing touch that comes from Jesus, the Sacrament of the Sick may be for you. If you are not sure, you can always talk to a priest about it.



Service Times

Our next service that will involve The Ministry of Anointing of the Sick is:

Please see our webpage for dates of Healing service:



kotaraanglican.org.au

If you would like anointing at any time, Please contact the Parish priest.

Parish Contact information

Parish Priest:

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Church of the Good Shepherd



The Ministry of Anointing the Sick