



Anglican Catholic Church



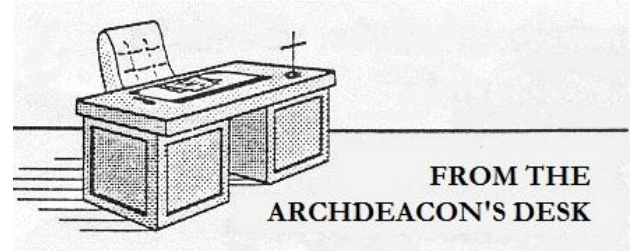
Diocese of the United Kingdom

Catholic Faith † Orthodox Worship † Apostolic Order

April 2017

My dear friends and colleagues,

When I used to go to Walsingham for the National Anglican Pilgrimage I was always struck by the contrast between those who were processing with the image of Our Lady and singing hymns of Christian devotion, and those Protestants who stood in the village square shouting abuse at us whilst waving their bibles. On the one hand you had joy, peace, and devotion to Our Lord and His Blessed Mother; on the other hand you had hatred, spitefulness, and ugly, noisy contempt.



Much the same was to be found when Pope Benedict visited London in September 2010, and at least one lapsed Roman Catholic was brought back to the Faith by the sheer contrast between the scenes she witnessed. On the one hand there was the snarling, venomous, anti-pope mob, led by Dawkins, Tatchell, etc, waving their plastic devil horns and sexual objects; on the other hand there were the young people carrying their sacred banners, whose faces shone with hope and enthusiasm. The choice between faith or faithlessness, hope or hopelessness, spiritual or material, light or darkness, love or anger, Christ or Dawkins, proved to be no contest.

The two options are irreconcilable. It is, of course, more than just a battle about which choice to make here and now. It is ultimately a battle between Life and Death to all eternity. The Resurrection makes eternal Life possible for all who bring their emptiness to Him who conquered death.

The release

It was so still that day
and cold: the hills
brown shoulder to shoulder
seemed too old

to recall
when the slam of a hammer
on the vile nails
rang through those high lands

But suddenly
the sound ceased

and seamless as Christ's brown robe
all the leaves of the forest fell quietly;
and the injured one rose up
freed of his grave clothes.

John Crossley



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BISHOP'S REGULATIONS REGARDING LICENSED LAY READERS IN THE DUK

Lay Readers exercise a special and very valuable ministry in our Diocese. Becoming a Lay Reader involves a special calling and commitment. The Anglican Catholic Church, with its origins in the Episcopal Church in North America, has, historically, viewed Readers' Ministry slightly different than the other parts of the Anglican Communion. In the Diocese of the United Kingdom we have tried to accommodate the differences between a Parish Reader (one who reads Morning and evening prayer only – in the absence of a priest) and a Reader as more commonly encountered, as a 'Diocesan Reader'.

Lay Readers shall be governed by the following regulations:

1. All Lay Readers shall be licensed by the Bishop for one parish or mission and under the direction of the Parish Priest / Priest in charge. This does not prevent a person designated as a Diocesan Lay Reader from being invited to minister elsewhere within the diocese but any such invitation or intention should be sanctioned by the Parish Priest / Priest in charge, both of his licensed Parish and that of the Parish he has been invited to. Licenses continue in effect only at the pleasure of the Bishop and are to be renewed annually on the First Sunday in Advent upon the request of the Parish Priest / Priest in charge. New licenses must be issued on the appointment of a new Parish Priest / Priest in charge or Bishop Ordinary.
2. Oaths – All Lay Readers will, before Licensing, take the solemn oaths of canonical conformity
3. Lay Readers may: (a) Lead Morning and Evening Prayer or portions thereof (with the exception of the Absolution and Blessing) and from time to time other forms which may be authorised by the Bishop. Instead of the Absolution, after the General Confession, the Lay Reader may use the Collect for the 21st or the 24th Sunday after Trinity (BCP) substituting 'we' for 'they' and 'our' for 'their'. (b) Read the Epistle at Mass if authorised by the Parish Priest / Priest in charge. (c) Deliver, from the Lectern, sermons and addresses authorised by the Parish Priest / Priest in charge. (d) Instruct children and adults in the Church. (e) Visit and pray with the sick and other parishioners as the occasion may require.
4. In the absence of a priest, a Lay Reader may also: (a) Read the Order for the Burial of the Dead (after suitable training and only with prior authorisation by the Bishop). (b) Baptise privately at home, but only in the case of grave necessity and not otherwise, using the form sanctioned by the Bishop for that purpose.
5. Lay Readers must: Report to the Parish Priest / Priest in charge, immediately, all private baptisms, and burials so that proper records may be kept.
6. In the conduct of public worship, the Lay Reader should wear a black cassock with white surplice. The wearing of a blue scarf (which is an established custom in some Anglican Churches) may only be done when the Lay Reader himself conducts public worship and even then only with the permission of the Parish Priest / Priest in charge concerned. When reading the Epistle at Mass no scarf is to be worn and the Reader may wear Cotta instead of Surplice. Pectoral Crosses are discouraged but in every day dress ties and badges denoting the Office of Reader may be worn.
7. In the absence of an ordained deacon or priest a Lay Reader may, with the permission of the bishop (on each occasion), act liturgically as a Subdeacon at Mass – however he is not permitted to wear the Maniple. A university graduate may wear the hood of his degree, with a cassock and surplice, but not with a cotta or alb.
8. To be licensed as a Lay Reader, a man must fulfil the following qualifications: (a) Pray daily. (b) Read and study the Bible regularly, so that Holy Scripture may be the focus and inspiration for his ministry. (c) Be baptised and confirmed. (d) Be of sound morals. (e) Be a regular worshipper and communicant at Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation. (f) Be instructed in how to lead worship. A part of this training should include assisting the Parish Priest / Priest in charge or another Lay Reader in leading worship. (g) Be accepted by the parish council. (h) Ordinarily to be recommended by the Parish Priest / Priest in charge in written application to the Bishop.
9. During a vacancy in the parish, the Lay Reader may carry on all the foregoing duties until a new Parish Priest / Priest in charge is appointed and a new licence obtained.
10. The Bishop shall appoint a senior clergyman to fulfil the Role of Warden of Readers and he shall advise and when necessary represent the Bishop in all matters relating to Readers' training and licensing. The Warden may also advise and assist the Parish Priest / Priest in charge of Parishes or Missions where Readers are appointed in training and liturgical matters.

The Warden of Lay Readers for the Diocese is:

The Venerable Raymond Thompson. Email: frraythompson@gmail.com