

Consecration Service for a Bishop

A Celtic-Inspired, Inclusive Liturgy

Gathering and Procession

(Soft instrumental Celtic harp or flute music. Candles are lit as the congregation gathers.)

Primus Archbishop

Grace and peace to you from the wild heart of God,
Who dances in the wind, whispers in the stones,
and sings in every soul.
Welcome, beloved of the One who is Mystery and Light.

All

We come as one Body,
Honouring Earth, Sky, and Sea,
Ready to consecrate a servant of Love.

(Procession begins. The Bishop-Elect walks barefoot if desired, accompanied by elders, spiritual companions, or community leaders. Symbols of Celtic heritage such as a bell, cross of St. Brigid, or a carved staff may be carried.)

Opening Prayer

Primus Archbishop

Creator of ancient hills and flowing streams,
Christ who walks the thin places,
Spirit who breathes through oak and ash—
Be with us now.

All

Kindle the fire in our hearts.
Make this holy ground.
May your Presence hover,
As it did over the waters of birth.

Invocation of the Saints and Ancestors

(The community chants or sings a simple invocation, such as “Circle us, O God” or “Be Thou My Vision.”)

Leader (optional elder or druidic figure)

Let us call upon the cloud of witnesses—

The saints who have walked before us:

Patrick and Brigid, Cuthbert and Columba,

Those named and unnamed,

Saints of the land and lovers of the Light.

All

Ancestors of faith, draw near.

Guide this moment with your wisdom.

We honor your presence among us.

Readings from Scripture and Celtic Wisdom

(Suggested readings:)

- **Isaiah 61:1-3** – “The Spirit of the Sovereign One is upon me...”
- **Matthew 5:1-12** – The Beatitudes
- Excerpt from the ***Carmina Gadelica***
- A poem by John O’Donohue or a prayer from the Northumbrian Community

Examination and Vows of the Bishop-Elect

Primus Archbishop

(Name), you are called to serve not in dominion, but in devotion—

To guide with humility,

To lead with courage,

To bless with tenderness,

And to walk always with the people and the land.

Do you embrace this calling,
To be a Bishop of Christ's inclusive love,
A bearer of wisdom,
A companion of justice?

Bishop-Elect

I do, with the strength of the Spirit and the prayers of the people.

Primus Archbishop

Will you hold the Christ-light for all—
For those who rejoice,
And for those who walk in sorrow's shadow?

Bishop-Elect

I will, with the help of the Holy One.

All (*stand, lifting hands or staves*)

We pledge to walk with you.
To uphold you in grace.
To challenge and cherish you.
To be one circle of love.

Laying On of Hands and Anointing

(All who wish may come forward in a spiral to lay hands. Sacred oils, water from a Celtic spring, and earth from holy ground may be used.)

Primus Archbishop (*as hands are laid*)

Come, Spirit of the Wild Goose—
Blow through this soul.
Set their heart aflame with compassion.
Make strong their hands for healing.
Let this one be a Bishop for all people—
Rooted in justice,
Radiant in mercy,
Reverent with creation.

Anointing with Oil

With oil of gladness,

With earth's deep scent,
We seal you for this calling.

All

So may it be.

Presentation of Symbols

- **Crozier** – symbol of guidance and journey
- **Cloak or Stole** – symbol of service
- **Bell** – symbol of awakening and call
- **Bowl of Water** – symbol of blessing and baptism
- **Book of Wisdom** – scripture and Celtic prayers

Primus Archbishop

Receive these gifts—
Not for status, but for service.
Not for power, but for peace.

Eucharist (Optional)

(Inclusive language is used throughout. Celtic blessings may be woven into the liturgy.)

Sending Forth

All

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the Spirit stir your soul,
And may you walk the thin places,
Always held in the circle of Love.

Primus Archbishop

Go now, Bishop of Light.
Go with the voice of the deer,

The strength of the oak,
And the peace of the misted glen.
In Christ, in Love, in Truth.

