

# THE ORDINAL

## NOTES FOR THE WHOLE ORDINAL

### *1 The threefold Ministry*

The Church of Ireland maintains the historic threefold ministry of bishops, priests (also called presbyters), and deacons. Its ministers are ordained by bishops according to authorized forms of service, with prayer and the laying on of hands (see the Preamble and Declaration to the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, the Preface to the Ordinal (1662), and the Constitution itself).

### *2 Consecration of Bishops*

Bishops must be consecrated by at least three other bishops, joining together in the act of laying on of hands, of whom one shall be the archbishop of the province or a bishop acting as deputy. Two assisting bishops should accompany the archbishop throughout.

Such consecrations should take place on a Sunday or Holy Day.

A consecration may appropriately take place in the metropolitan cathedral or in a cathedral of the vacant see. In the latter case it is appropriate that, once consecrated, the new bishop receives the pastoral staff, is placed in the episcopal seat and subsequently presides at the Eucharist.

### *3 Ordination of Priests and Deacons*

Priests (or presbyters) share with the bishop in laying hands on the heads of those ordained to the order of priest. The bishop alone lays hands on the heads of those ordained to the order of deacon.

### *4 The Declarations*

The declarations as required by the Constitution of the Church of Ireland are taken prior to the service of ordination of deacons and priests.

### *5 Form of Service*

Questions concerning the form of service to be used, and other matters concerning the conduct of the service, are to be determined by the bishop who presides at it, in accordance with the rubrics of the service and having regard to tradition and local custom.

### *6 Readings*

The Readings will normally be those indicated in the service. On occasion the readings of the day may be used or readings may be selected from those provided in the Table of Readings page 70.

### *7 Vesture*

The ordinand may be vested in the vesture of the order before the service begins, or at the appropriate point after the laying on of hands. Deacons and priests are vested with a scarf or stole according to individual choice, and bishops in their episcopal habit (see Canon 12).

### *8 The Presentation*

Before the service, the ordinand is appropriately seated with those who will present him/her to the bishop; while, after the presentation, it is appropriate that all those being ordained should be seated together.

9 In these services appropriate changes are made to nouns and pronouns when there is only one candidate for ordination.

