

Anchors

Rite of Commissioning

those whose ministry is to pray at home



Leader Dear friends, we are delighted to welcome you

and are grateful that you are able to be with us today.

You have agreed to take on the role of a parish anchor.

This is a strange title – and probably unique to our Diocese!

It reminds us of men and women – called anchorites or anchors

who gave their lives to prayer in small annexes of their local church.

It also reminds us of anchors –  
 which hold ships steady in harbours or in storms.

And it might remind us of the anchor men and women

who hold television or radio programmes together.

The name is a sign of the indispensable role

you play in the life of our community

and, particularly, during this journey of renewal.

Are you willing to take on this ministry of anchor to our parish?

**Anchor(s) We are.**

**Short Reading**

Jesus said,

‘Whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door

and pray to your Father who is in secret;

and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.’

**A sung response might be possible here…**

**Making the Commitment of Prayer**

Leader Will you pray for those of us who are charged

with examining and reflecting

on the information about our parish/ community?

**Anchor(s) We will.**

Leader Will you pray the *Forward Together in Hope* prayer each day,

for your parish (N…),

its clergy (N….)

Its lay people,

and our school (N…)

and (any other significant group or organisation)?

**Anchor(s) We will.**

*Where a holding cross is to be given:*

Leader The journey ahead will have its times of joys and sorrows.

We ask that you accept this holding cross…

and when you hold it,

that you bring all the pain and stress  
 to the foot of the Lord’s cross,

and pray for his powerful and healing love

to be poured upon us

as we look for the resurrection he promises.

*Crosses distributed*

May God bless these crosses and those who will pray with them,

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

*Where a candle is to be given:*

**L**eader The journey ahead will have its times of light but also of darkness. We ask that you accept this candle to use in your prayer.

When you light it,

give thanks to God for the light and joy

and pray that he who is the Light of the World

will bring light and hope into the times of darkness and anxiety.

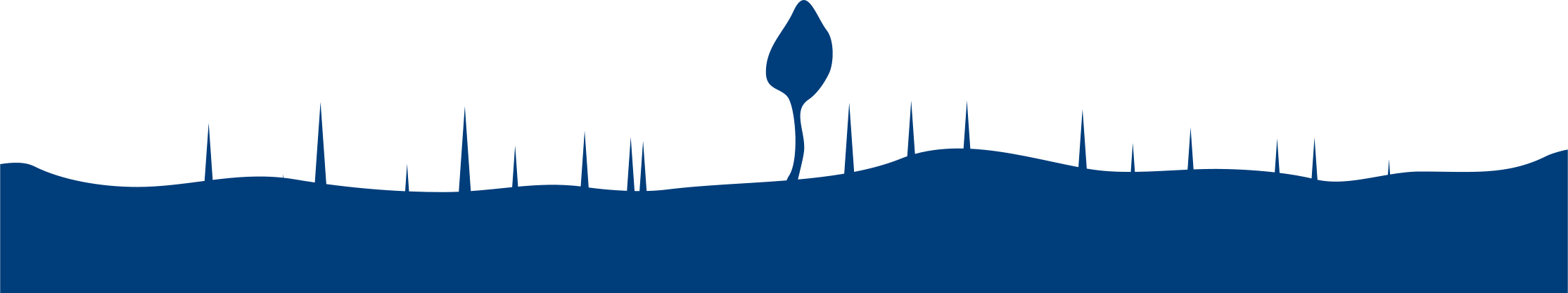
*Candles distributed*

May God bless these candles and those who will pray with them

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

**Leader** Let us now pray our ***Forward Together in Hope*** prayer**.**



**Glory be to the Father –**

**in whom we live and move**

**and have our being.**

**Glory be to the Son –**

**whose name we bear and who**

**calls each of us to be his disciples;**

**to build his Kingdom and to go out**

**into the world and bear its fruit.**

**Glory be to the Holy Spirit –**

**pouring out grace and guidance,**

**forming us and renewing us.**

**Inspire us all in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle**

**to live the Gospel,**

**to be open to change**

**and to move forward together in hope.**

**Amen**

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