

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.



- Illness and suffering are not easy to cope with.

They make a person feel powerless and realise their limitations.

When a person is very sick, they are not able to do what they normally do. They may not be able to work or to enjoy life as they used to.

Often it is an occasion when people have time to reflect on what is important to them in life.

It is often a time when people think about God and pray more. Christians remember the suffering of Jesus.

When Jesus sent out his disciples to preach the Good News they;

“...anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.”

Mark 6: 13

Recall how the Good Samaritan anointed the wounds of the man who had been mugged and used oil to clean and heal them.


The person who is very ill welcomes the prayers and kindness of those who visit them.

James' letter has many practical suggestions which include reference to anointing of the sick.

“Are any of you ill? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”

Based on James 5: 14-15

The anointing with oil is a symbol of healing and is used in the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.




ANOINTING OF THE SICK

WHAT WILL YOU SEE?
olive oil
priest
person being anointed

WHO WILL BE THERE?
sick person
priest
family/friends
parish community

WHAT WILL BE HAPPENING?
laying on of hands
anointing with oil



WHAT WILL YOU HEAR?
words of welcome
readings
litany
prayers of blessing
prayer of anointing

Give life and health to our brothers and sisters on whom we lay our hands in your name.

Through this anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is a sacrament for anyone who is seriously ill.

It is a sacrament that is commonly given a number of times during an illness, sometimes because the person becomes more ill, or because the sick person would benefit from the strength and comfort the Sacrament gives them.

The Sacrament of Anointing 'is meant to lead the person to healing of the soul but also of the body if such is God's will.' (Catechism Catholic Church 1520)

Through the Sacrament the Holy Spirit helps to calm the worry, anxiety and discouragement the sick person may experience.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Why do you think oil is used in healing?
- What other sacraments include anointing with oil?
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- How do you think the sick person feels when they know someone is praying for them?
- What do you think James means when he says: '*the Lord will raise him up*'?

Task

- Prepare a liturgy for use in worship for the sick people in your school, homes and/or parish.
- Choose a reading (from James or another suitable) and then say how you will gather and respond with the message the reading is telling us about.
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- Within the worship make the Sign of the Cross on one another's foreheads and any other symbolic gestures.
- Remember to pray for those who are sick.