



# The Sacrament of the Sick

Healing

The Church names two Sacraments as *Sacraments of Healing*; the Sacrament of Reconciliation and of the Anointing of the Sick.

They are not healing in the sense of making a person physically better, but spiritual healing, or helping them feel closer to God and better in themselves.

The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick celebrates God's gifts of hope, strength and healing, life and friendship with God the Father, with Jesus and one another.

The celebration uses:

Actions – anointing

Words – prayers

And symbols – oil, sign of the cross

Sometimes the celebration takes place within a mass for all the sick and their families and friends. Although often the celebration is for one sick person in hospital or at home.





Barbara is 98 and is quite frail so Father Pat is going to anoint her.



The table is prepared for the Sacrament of the Sick, with a white cloth, a Crucifix, the container with the holy oil, and a pyx with the Blessed Sacrament



Father Pat blesses Barbara with Holy Water.



Father Pat prays the penitential rite.





Barbara receives forgiveness.



Father Pat reads the Gospel.



Next Father Pat leads the litany.

# Litany

Let us pray to God for our brothers and sisters and for all those who devote themselves to caring for them.

Bless N. and N. and fill them with new hope and strength: Lord have mercy.

Response: Lord have mercy.

Relieve their pain: Lord have mercy.

Response: Lord have mercy.

Sustain all the sick with your power:  
Lord have mercy.

Response: Lord have mercy.

Assist all who care for the sick:

Lord have mercy.

Response: Lord have mercy.

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

Response: Lord have mercy.

Father Pat lays his hands on Barbara to bless her.



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



Father Pat prepares to anoint Barbara.



Barbara is anointed with holy oil on her head,

and on her hands.



He says "May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up. Amen"





Barbara receives Holy Communion.



Father Pat prays the final prayer and blessing.

***FINAL PRAYER FOR ALL THOSE  
WHO ARE SICK***

*Father in heaven,  
through this holy anointing  
grant our brothers and sisters  
comfort in their suffering.  
When they are afraid,  
give them courage,  
when afflicted, give them patience,  
when dejected, afford them hope,  
and when alone,  
assure them of the support  
of your holy people.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Response: Amen*



Barbara thanks Father Pat.

# SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q In what way does the Anointing of the Sick heal a person?
- Q What is important about a person being anointed at a gathering of the parish family?
- Q Why do you think the hands and forehead of the person are anointed?
- Q What words of comfort and hope did you notice in the prayers?

# Task

Write a diary entry, imagining you were one of the people being anointed.

Describe your experience and understanding of the Sacrament, how you feel and what effect you hope it will have on your life.

**Colloquial Language**  
You should try to use chatty/informal language.

**Follow a "Diary Style"**  
Start each entry with a date and "Dear Diary".

**First person**  
Remember to use personal pronouns (in particular: I/We)

**Chronological order**  
Your diary should be in time order, using adverbials.

**HOW TO WRITE A:**

**DIARY**

**Self-reflection**  
Try to include your thoughts, feelings, opinions and hopes (inside speech marks).

**Past Tense**  
A diary is about what has already happened.

**Detailed descriptions**  
Remember to use more than one sense, to make your description more imaginable. Similes and metaphors can also be effective.

