

Prayers for the local authorisation of Holy Communion Assistants

This material is intended to be used at a principal Sunday Eucharist in the benefice. It may either replace the prayers of intercession, or come between the prayers of intercession and the Peace.

Introduction & Presentation of Holy Communion Assistants

The creed having been said, the incumbent says:

Dear friends in Christ, some of our brothers and sisters are now to be entrusted with administering the sacrament of the Eucharist as invited to do so by the priest presiding, and share in the ministry of taking the sacrament to the sick and housebound as occasion and need arise.

For each person to be authorised, a churchwarden says:

I present N to share in the ministry and mission of this benefice / parish* as a Holy Communion Assistant.

The incumbent addresses those to be authorised:

In this ministry, you must be examples of Christian living in faith and conduct; you must strive to grow in holiness through this sacrament of unity and love. Remember that, though many, we are one body because we share the one bread and one cup. As ministers of holy communion be, therefore, especially observant of the Lord's command to love your neighbour. For when he gave his body as food to his disciples, he said to them, "This is my commandment, that you should love one another as I have loved you."

I therefore ask:

Will you undertake the office of administering the sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood to your brothers and sisters, and so to serve to build up his Church?

With the help of God, I will.

Are you resolved to administer the Holy Eucharist with utmost care and reverence?

With the help of God, I will.

My sisters and brothers, let us now ask God to bless these Holy Communion Assistants, that they may serve him faithfully in this benefice / parish*.

Silent prayer

Blessing of Holy Communion Assistants

Merciful Father,
creator and guide of your family,
bless + these our brothers and sisters.
May they faithfully share the bread of life
and the cup of salvation,
always discerning the body of Christ.
Strengthened by this sacrament,
may they come at last to the banquet of heaven.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The incumbent hands each Holy Communion Assistant their certificate of authorisation and shakes their hand. When all have been presented, the incumbent invites the congregation to welcome and affirm their new assistants by applause.

All stand

The Peace

We are the body of Christ.

In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

The service resumes with the offertory

** Delete / amend as appropriate*