

# CONSECRATION OF AN ALTAR

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S. Wulstan's Church

Little Malvern

29. IX. 1962.

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1. The Abbot sings: Deus, in adjutorium meum intende.

All answer: Domine, ad adjuvandum me festina.  
Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.  
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,  
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Litanies of the Saints are sung. After 'Ut omnibus fidelibus defunctis' the Abbot three times sings: Sancte Wulstane  
All answer: Ora pro nobis.

Prayer follows:

Let us pray

Let thy mercy go before us, we pray thee, Lord, and at the pleading of all thy saints may thy gracious forgiveness forestall our prayers. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

2. The Abbot now sprinkles the altar with holy water.

3. The Abbot anoints the five crosses on the altar saying: May this altar be sanctified, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

During the sprinkling and anointing the choir sing (monotone) Introibo ad altare Dei, ad Deum qui laetificat juventutem meam and Psalm 42, repeating the antiphon after the 2nd, 4th and last verse. No Gloria Patri.

After the anointing the Abbot sings: Dominus vobiscum.



All answer: Et cum spiritu tuo.

Let us pray

Thou victim of propitiation, offered once for all for our redemption on the altar of the cross, foreshadowed by the stone set up by the patriarch Jacob as a monument where sacrifice should be made and the gate of heaven be opened for the declaration of divine truth; thee, Lord, we humbly entreat to command that the polished surface of this stone, which is to be bedewed with the heavenly sacrifice, be abundantly enriched and hallowed. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

4. Relic Procession

The Abbot, assistants and people proceed to the room in S. Richard's School to the place where the relics have been since the night before.

During the procession the choir sing (monotone): How glorious is the kingdom wherein all the saints rejoice with Christ! clothed in white robes they are the Lamb's attendants wherever he goes. This is followed by the Psalm Laudate Dominum omnes Gentes (or a hymn in honour of the Saint may be sung)

The Abbot, standing before the relics, sings: Dominus vobiscum.

All answer: Et cum spiritu tuo.

Let us pray

Grant, O Lord, that we may worthily handle these relics of the bodies of thy

saints, dedicated to thee in a special manner, for we desire to enjoy their never failing protection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

During the procession back to the church the choir sing: Theirs is the kingdom of heaven, for they despised life in this world and attained the rewards of the kingdom; they have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. Psalm 149 is then sung, the antiphon being repeated after the 2nd, 4th and last verse.

When the procession reaches the main door of the church the Psalm is finished and the antiphon repeated.

On entering the church the choir sing: Enter, you Saints of God, for the Lord has prepared an abiding-place for you; with gladness the faithful follow after you; intercede for us with the divine Majesty. Psalm 150 follows, the antiphon being repeated as before.

5. On reaching the sanctuary the relics are incensed and then the Abbot places them in the sepulchre. The choir sings: O Saints of God, you have found a resting-place beneath the altar of God; intercede for us with the Lord Jesus Christ. Beneath the altar of God I heard the voices of those who had been slain, saying, Why dost thou not exact vengeance for our blood? And God answered, Wait a little while longer, until the number of your brethren is made up. The



bodies of the Saints lie in peace; their name lasts on for ever.

Blessing of the cement

℣. Dominus vobiscum. ℟. Et cum spiritu tuo.

Let us pray

O God most high, who dost watch over the highest, the lowest and all that lies between, who dost encompass and contain within thyself all created things, hallow this cement which is of thy creation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

After cementing the sepulchre

℣. Dominus vobiscum. ℟. Et cum spiritu tuo.

Let us pray

O God, who dost join together all the Saints to fashion for thyself an eternal dwelling-place, give heavenly increase to this structure of thine; and grant that we may be ever helped by the merits of those to whose relics here we show loving reverence. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Consecration of the altar

The Abbot anoints the five crosses on the altar, saying: May this altar be sealed and hallowed and consecrated in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, in honour and memory of Saint Wulstan.

During the consecration the choir sing: God, thy own God, has given thee an unction to bring thee pride beyond any of thy fellows. Psalm 44 follows, the antiphon being repeated as before.

The Abbot then incenses the altar and the choir sing: An angel stood at the altar of the temple with a censer of gold in his hand. Incense was given him in plenty to burn before the golden altar in God's presence. The incense-smoke ascended up before the Lord from the hand of the angel.

The Abbot sings the following prayer:  
V. Dominus vobiscum. R. Et cum spiritu tuo.

Let us pray

Let our prayer rise up before thee, we beseech thee, Lord, welcome as incense-smoke, and may the Christian people obtain abundant blessings; that whosoever shall devoutly offer gifts to be consecrated to thee on this altar or shall receive them when consecrated, may be helped in this present life, find remission of all his sins and gain the grace of everlasting redemption. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Abbot then places the five taper crosses on the altar crosses.

He then kneels and intones Veni, Sancte Spiritus. The choir continues this, as on Whit Sunday.



The Abbot says:

Dearest brethren, let us entreat the mercy of God the Father Almighty that he will heed our prayers and, by this blessing, hallow this altar which is to be dedicated to spiritual sacrifice, and that he will be pleased to bless and sanctify the offerings laid thereon by his servants out of zeal and devotion, and, appeased by spiritual incense, be ever ready to hearken to the prayers of his household.

The Abbot says: Oremus

The Deacon replies: Flectamus genua...  
Levate.

Almighty God, in whose honour and in whose name we consecrate this altar, mercifully and graciously hear the prayers of thy humble servants, and grant that the sacrifices offered upon this table may be acceptable to thee, agreeable and favourably received, and may the dew of thy Holy Spirit ever be poured out upon them; so that at all times when the members of thy household make supplication to thee in this place thou wilt relieve their anxiety, cure their bodily ills, heed their prayers, accept their vows, strengthen their good purposes and answer their petitions. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, thy Son, who is God, living and reigning with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

Then follows the preface, sung as usual.

During preparation for Mass the altar is cleansed by the Deacon, during which Psalm 95 is sung by the choir.

The Mass begins with the Introit.