

## PRAYING OUR FAREWELLS

*Before the Dismissal a suitable hymn is sung. Then:*

*Priest:* We are God's people gathered here;

*All:* **let us kneel before God's footstall.**

*Priest:* Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ,

we thank you that in this wonderful Sacrament

you have given us the memorial of your passion:

grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries

of your Body and Blood that we may know within ourselves

and show forth in our lives the fruits of your redemption;

for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. **Amen**

*The Priest hands the sacred vessels and chasuble to a Server and says:*

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,

*All:* **the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.**

*Priest:* God of all grace,

your Son fed the hungry with the Bread of his life and the word of his kingdom,

renew your people with your heavenly grace,

and in all our weakness, sustain us by your true and living bread;

who is alive and reigns, now and forever. **Amen**

*The Priest hands the Book of the Gospels to an appropriate person and says:*

Your word is a lantern to my feet,

*All:* **and a light upon my path.**

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life;

*All:* **may they ever be on our lips and in our heart.**

*The Churchwardens come forward and say:*

**The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in;**

*Priest:* From this time forth and forevermore.

*Minister:* Gracious God,

your Spirit hovers over the Church to guide and sanctify it;

hear our prayer which we offer for all your people,

that, in their vocation and ministry, each may serve you in holiness and truth

through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*The Priest says to the Churchwardens:*

This is the House of God;

*All:* **and the Gate of Heaven.**

*Priest:* God of our pilgrimage, the desire of our hearts and longings,

may this place always be a well of holiness

and a sign to your presence in our midst.

Let all who seek you be welcome here and find their home with all your saints

in Christ, our hidden companion on the Way. **Amen.**

*S/He hands back the keys of the church to the churchwardens who say:*

May the Lord bless you in your continuing priestly vocation. **Amen**

*The Priest says:*

As I leave, I give thanks for all that you have given to me;

I assure you of my love and prayers.

**All: As you experience the pain of change, and the insecurity of moving on,  
we pray that you may also experience the blessing of inner growth.**

*The Priest says:*

I know that God goes with me.

*A minister says:*

Let us silently offer our prayers to God and ask a blessing on ... (and ...)

*S/He kneels for the blessing of the Church. The Churchwardens and others lay hands on him/her in a moment of silent prayer after which they invite the congregation to stand and extend their right hand as they join in the blessing:*

**To the prayers of our blessed Lady we commend you.**

**May (Parish patron), pray for you.**

**May all the saints of God, pray for you.**

**May the holy angels befriend you and watch around you to protect you.**

**May the Lord bless you and watch over you,**

**the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you,**

**the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace.**

*The Priest:*

Thanks be to God.

*The Churchwardens lead the Priest to the entrance as the final hymn is sung*

**Minister: The Mass is ended, go in peace to love and serve the Lord!**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

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**NB.** This Liturgy is taken from '[\*Enfolded in Christ: the inner life of a priest\*](#)' (p.164f)

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