



## Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham

### Ad Clerum –Lent 2009

As we continue our pilgrimage this Lent I invite you and your people to come to the Sung Holy Communion in your Cathedral at 11.00am. on **Maundy Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009.**

It is my hope that all clergy and readers will robe; as you arrive at the Minster please come into the choir to robe in surplice or alb and white stole if you use one, and be lined up and ready to enter at **10.45am.** Please also encourage parishioners to come and as we worship together, especially those engaged in any way with the ministries of healing and of nurture; this is a time of worship for the whole diocese and the whole people of God and not just clergy.

I will be presiding and preaching at the service. The oils will be available to pick up after the service in the crossing. This year will you please arrange to bring your own appropriate containers, although there will be some spare ones available. Containers should be clearly labelled and the oil picked up by a licensed minister. Please make sure you only take as much oil as you are likely to use and that the oils are locked up and kept correctly in your church.

Wise and prayerful use of the **Oil of Healing**, alongside prayer, pastoral care and well thought out parish pastoral practice and policy is not only the way God wants us to be with one another, but should be a major aspect of our sharing in God's mission.

**The Oil of Baptism** is traditionally used before Baptism, for instance in enrolling those at the start or a little way through their baptism or confirmation preparation time, or liturgically in *Common Worship* at the signing of the cross.

**The Oil of Chrism** is used after Baptism or Confirmation: "May God....pour upon you the riches of his grace", and is usually poured or smeared over the head as we pray for people to be drenched in the Holy Spirit, and that all of us together, from the newest to the most experienced Christian, may be renewed in our faith in Jesus Christ: "that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit...". On Maundy Thursday many of you will be recalling Our Lord washing his disciples' feet; it is also a good day to pray for all who serve, and especially our hospital chaplains and Christians who work in the health services in any way, or in formulating and implementing health policy in our communities.

Finally, I wish you and your family a thoughtful and faith deepening Holy Week as we stay spiritually with Jesus those final hours before he died on the cross. May you have a wonderful Easter and time of resurrection and refreshment in these challenging days.

With warmest good wishes.

+ George