**Parish Pastoral Care Team Commissioning the Team**

**The Commissioning of a Pastoral Team**

*This rite of commissioning is designed for use in the main Sunday Eucharist. However it can be used in the context of Morning or Evening Prayer or A Service of the Word.*

*After the sermon the Pastoral Team come forward to stand in front of the congregation.*

**Introduction**

The Church’s task is to reflect the nature of God. All are called to respond to his love for us by offering ourselves in service of our brothers and sisters. That the love of God for his world might be better known in this place we commission a team to assist some aspects of the ministry of pastoral care in this parish.

**Affirmation**

*The congregation stands to affirm their common calling in Baptism to serve God and his people.*

There is one body, one Spirit, one hope in God’s call,

**one Lord, one faith, one baptism.**

There is one God, Father of all, over all and in all,

**to whom Christ ascended on high.**

And through his Spirit he gives us gifts;

**some are apostles, some are his prophets.**

Evangelists, pastors and teachers he gives us,

**so we can minister together**

**and build up his body,**

**to be mature in the fullness of Christ.** *Ephesians 4:4-13*

**Commissioning**

My brothers and sisters, we are all baptised by one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. The members of this team have been seeking to discern God’s will and preparing to share in the ministry of pastoral care in this parish.

*The minister addresses the team members*

Will you, as members of the Pastoral Team, serve God

In the firm belief that the power of the Holy Spirit will guide and direct all who call upon him?

**With the help of God, we will.**

Will you be diligent in reading Holy Scripture, in prayer and worship, and all that will build up and sustain you in this ministry?

**With the help of God, we will.**

Will you do all in your power to bring comfort, peace and strength to those whom you are called upon to serve?

**With the help of God, we will.**

Will you, as part of Christ’s body, work with one another and with those under whose authority you minister to serve Christ in all people, with love and humility?

**With the help of God, we will.**

*The minister addresses the congregation*

Will you encourage the pastoral team in their ministry and support them with your prayers?

**With the help of God, we will.**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for calling us all into service through our baptism. We thank you for the members of this team and pray for them. Equip them with every spiritual gift they need that they may serve you with humility and joy. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We commission you as a Pastoral Team that together you may be fellow workers of Christ in this parish in the name of the Father + and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The minister prays for the ministry of the whole people of God in this place

God of mercy, by whose grace alone we are accepted and equipped for your service: stir up in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit and make us worthy of our calling; that we may bring forth the fruit of the spirit in love, joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Eucharist continues with the Peace.*