

Scripture

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home of God
is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying
and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.’

And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.’

Revelation 21:1-7

This leaflet is one a series of resources prepared by the Liturgy Office to accompany the publication of *Consecrated for Worship*. This leaflet © 2006 Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales.

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Further resources can be found at www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/CFW

Prayer

Lord,
*fill this place with your presence,
and extend your hand
to all those who call upon you.*

*May your word here proclaimed
and your sacraments here celebrated
strengthen the hearts of all the faithful.*

Opening Prayer from the
Dedication of a Church .

*Christ be in my head,
and in my thinking,
Christ be in my heart,
and in my loving,
Christ be in my living,
and in my dying,
Christ be in my resurrection,
and throughout eternity,
Christ be in me,
now and for evermore. Amen.*

Consecrated for Worship

Lord,
*you built a holy Church,
founded upon the apostles
with Jesus Christ its cornerstone.*

*Grant that your people,
gathered in your name,
may fear and love you
and grow as the temple of your glory.*

*May they always follow you,
until, with you at their head,
they arrive at last in your heavenly city.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Rite for Laying of a Foundation Stone 13



The Parish & its church

**Liturgy
Office**
ENGLAND
& WALES

Responsibility for a parish church does not lie with the parish alone.

For example Canon Law establishes that a church can only be built with the permission in writing of the diocesan bishop (Canon 1215). It also requires in the building, restoration and reordering of churches experts are to be consulted and the principles and norms of liturgy and sacred art are to be observed (Canon 1216).

Consecrated for Worship, a Directory on Church Building, is a teaching and policy document for Catholic Church in England and Wales. It has been issued by the Bishops' Conference to remind what the Roman Rite requires of a church, and of the various teaching documents and guidelines issued by the Holy See. It applies and develops that teaching as it relates to the particular circumstances of the Church in England and Wales.

In addition each diocesan bishop will have issued norms and guidelines as to the procedures to be followed in his diocese for consultation and decision making for the building, maintenance, restoration and reordering of churches.

Who is likely to be involved?

In addition to the parish community and its parish priest a number of the following will probably be involved in the decision making.

Diocesan policy will determine at what stages and in what order formal application should be made to any or all of these. However they may all be consulted at any stage, should the parish feel that is helpful.

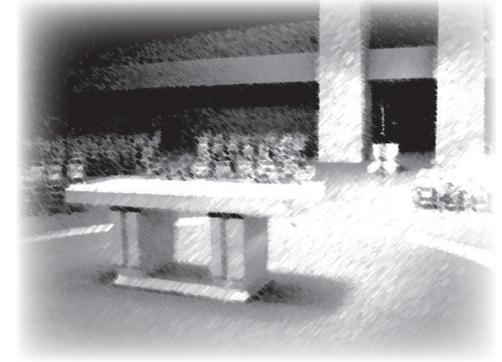
Diocesan Trustees

The Diocesan Trustees generally need to give authorisation to expenditure on parish projects over a certain level of expenditure (which will be set by each diocese).



Liturgy Commission/Art & Architecture Committee

Every diocese has a Liturgy Commission. Under the direction of the bishop, this commission is responsible for promoting the liturgy. The bishop will normally entrust to this Commission, or to a Committee of it, responsibility for approving the liturgical arrangement of the churches of the diocese.



Only when such permission has been granted may work begin on making changes to the liturgical arrangement of a church.

It is always advisable for the Liturgy Commission to be consulted at the very beginning of a project. This will assist with the drawing up of an appropriate brief for architects or designers to work to in preparing their proposals for consideration by the parish and the Commission.

Historic Churches Committee

The Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Order 1994 exempts certain listed Roman Catholic buildings from some of the provisions of planning legislation subject to there being alternative controls and procedures exercised by Church authorities. (See www.catholic-ew.org.uk/liturgy/Department/HCC.html)

Each diocese in England and Wales has an Historic Churches Committee, (HCC), established by the bishop. The HCC is the statutory body authorised to grant permission for works to be carried out on, for example, a listed church, oratory or chapel belonging to the diocese and used for worship. Most external works to buildings will also require planning permission from the local planning authority.

Formal requests to the HCC for a faculty for changes to the arrangement of any liturgical space must always be accompanied by a certificate of approval for the work issued by the diocesan Liturgy Commission or Art and Architecture Committee.