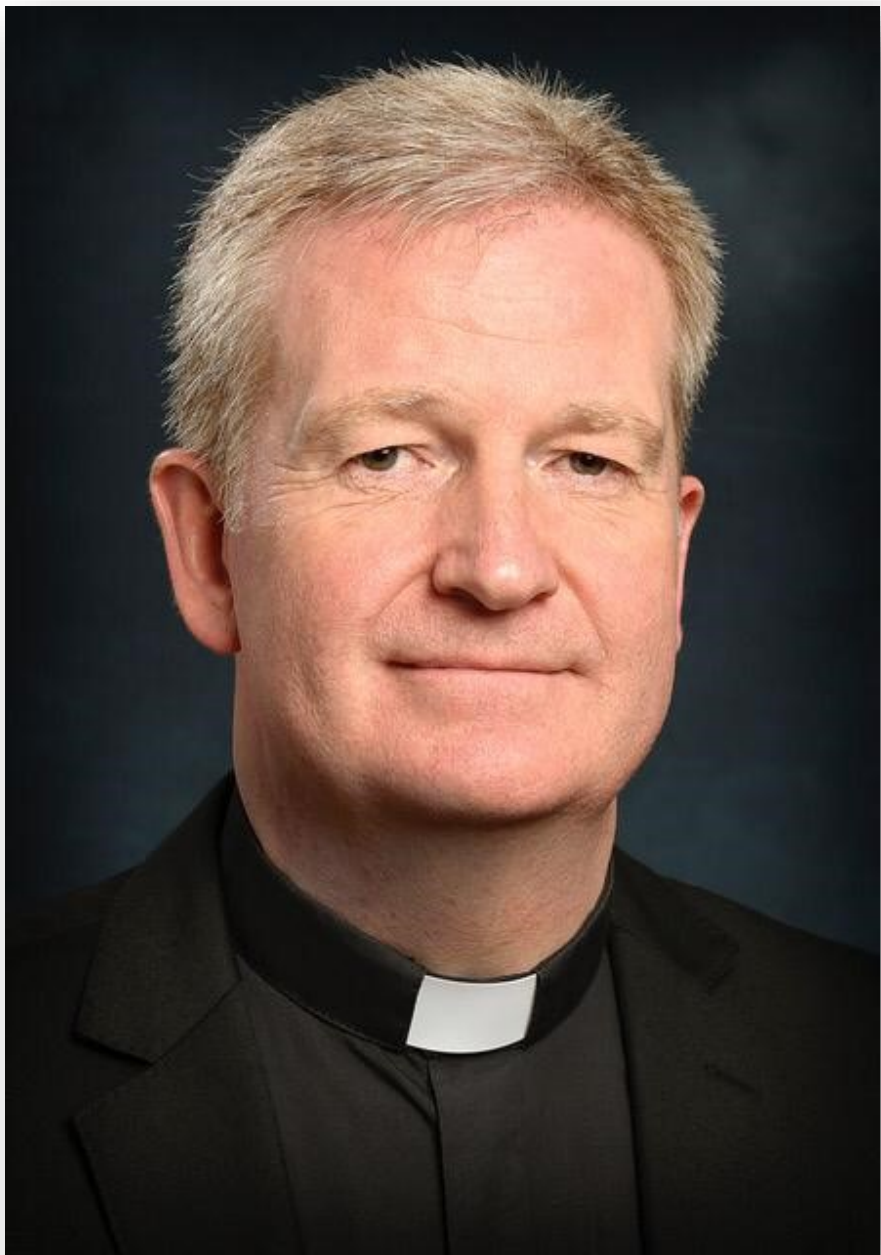


The Episcopal Ordination of
Father Paul Dempsey
as
Bishop of Achonry



***Cathedral of The Annunciation & St Nathy
Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon***

Sunday 30th August, 2020





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Principal Consecrator

Most Reverend Michael Neary, DD

Archbishop of Tuam

Co-Consecrators

Most Reverend Jude Thaddeus Okolo

Titular Archbishop of Novica

Papal Nuncio to Ireland

Most Reverend Denis Nulty, DD

Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin



Cathedral of The Annunciation and St Nathy



The Parishes of Achonry

There are twenty-three parishes in the diocese. Eleven of these are in Co. Sligo, eleven in Co. Mayo and one, the Cathedral Parish, in Co. Roscommon (though parts of the parish are also in Counties Sligo and Mayo).



(Map by Brendan Cleary 2017)

There are four “clusters” of parishes within the Diocese

Fr Peyton Cluster

Attymass, Bonniclonlon, Foxford, Killasser and Straide

St Joseph's Cluster

Bohola, Carracastle, Charlestown, Kilmovee, Kiltimagh and Swinford

St Attracta's Cluster

Ballaghaderreen, Ballymote, Bunninadden, Gurteen and Keash

Tubbercurry Cluster

Achonry, Ballisodare, Coolaney, Collooney, Curry, Tourlestrane and Tubbercurry



The Bishop's Motto

“Duc in Altum” (Luke 5:4) (Put out into the deep)

For his motto Father Paul has chosen “Duc in Altum,” coming from the miraculous fishing event, narrated in Luke’s Gospel, where Jesus invites Simon, disappointed after a poor night’s fishing on Lake Gennesaret, to try again; “Put out into the deep, and let down the nets for a catch.”- “Duc in altum et laxate retia vestra in capturam”. Simon is completely overcome by the catch they make. Jesus then invites Simon, despite his unworthiness, to follow him and to become a “fisher of men.” Simon “left everything and followed Him.”

Bishop's Coat of Arms

In the right side of the shield (in heraldic shield, right and left are exchanged from the observer point of view since we have to consider the right and the left of the soldier who, in ancient times, holds his own shield) we find the Saint Brigid's Cross, associated with Brigid of Kildare, reminding us that Father Paul ministered for twenty-three years as a priest of the diocese of Kildare & Leighlin.



The shell is the well-known symbol of the Pilgrim. The Bishop leads the earthly pilgrimage of the flock entrusted to his pastoral care as fellow pilgrims towards the homeland of heaven.

The lion symbolises strength and courage. The sword in classical iconography of the Roman Catholic Church is the symbol of Saint Paul. These two symbols, the lion and the sword, appear on the Dempsey family Coat of Arms.

The silver (Argent) is the colour of transparency, truth and justice, fundamental qualities for the Bishop's pastoral service.

The green (Sinople) in heraldry signifies abundance, joy, hope and loyalty in love. It is associated with St. Patrick and is the national colour of Ireland.

The red, is the colour of love, of blood, a reminder of the infinite love of the Father who sent the Son to shed His blood for us on the cross in a profound act of love.

Father Paul Dempsey was born in Carlow Town on April 20th, 1971.

In 1978 his family moved to Athy, Co Kildare where he was educated by the Christian Brothers at primary and secondary level. In 1989, he began his studies for the priesthood and was ordained in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow by Bishop Laurence Ryan, on 6 July 1997.

Father Paul's first appointment was as curate in Clane & Rathcoffey Parish, Co Kildare. In 2004 he moved to Kildare Town as curate and was also appointed Youth Director and Vocations Director for the diocese by Bishop Jim Moriarty.

In 2008, he pursued further studies in the Milltown Institute, Dublin where he completed an Honours Master's Degree in Theology in the area of Faith & Culture. His thesis was entitled "The Contemporary Irish Catholic Church – A Church in Crisis or in Question?"

On completion of his studies, Father Paul took up his appointment as curate in the parish cluster of Naas, Sallins and Two-Mile-House in 2009. In August, 2014, he was appointed to Newbridge Parish and also as Vicar Forane for the Kildare & Leighlin North Deanery consisting of 17 parishes.

On 1 September 2015, he was appointed Parish Priest of Newbridge and Administrator of Caragh and Prosperous Parishes.

On January 27th, 2020, he was appointed Bishop of Achonry by His Holiness, Pope Francis.

Today, Sunday 30th August 2020, he is to be ordained as Bishop of Achonry. He is wished every blessing for this new chapter of his ministry and is assured of the welcome and support of the people, religious and priests of our diocese.

Ad multos annos.



Ordination Day - July 6th 1997

“May the Lord who has begun the good work in you
bring it to fulfilment” (*Rite of Ordination*)

The Liturgy

Ministers of The Word

Kevin Dempsey
Deirdre Dempsey

Presentation of the Bishop-Elect

Father Dermot Meehan
Diocesan Administrator

Homilist

Father Vincent Sherlock

Assistant Priests

Father Liam Morgan and
Father Eugen Dragos Tamas

Deacons

Reverend Martin Lynch
Reverend Kevin Flynn

Commentary

Father Tomás Surlis

Master of Ceremonies

Father Martin Henry

Music

Ballaghaderreen Cathedral Choir
Swinford Parish Choir

Director: Maria Moynihan
Organist: Antoinette Byrne

Father James McDonagh and Gráinne Horan

Since no one stands alone, we realise that our bishop-elect is here today because of the love and generosity of many people; firstly his family whom we remember today with gratitude. We pray God's rest for his parents, Tony and Berry, and we remember especially his sisters Angela and Bernadette who unfortunately cannot join us due to the travel restrictions imposed by COVID-19. We are please to welcome his brother Tony and family, his relations and friends and we welcome those representing his native diocese of Kildare and Leighlin.

We stand together, we pray together and we rejoice together.



The Dempsey Family (1971)

Introductory Rites

After the entrance procession Archbishop Neary will address some words of welcome and call us to pray.

Opening Prayer

Archbishop Neary: Lord our God, you have chosen your servant Paul to be a shepherd of your flock in the tradition of the apostles. Give him a spirit of courage and right judgement, a spirit of knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care may he build your Church as a sign of salvation for the world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Liturgy of The Word

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

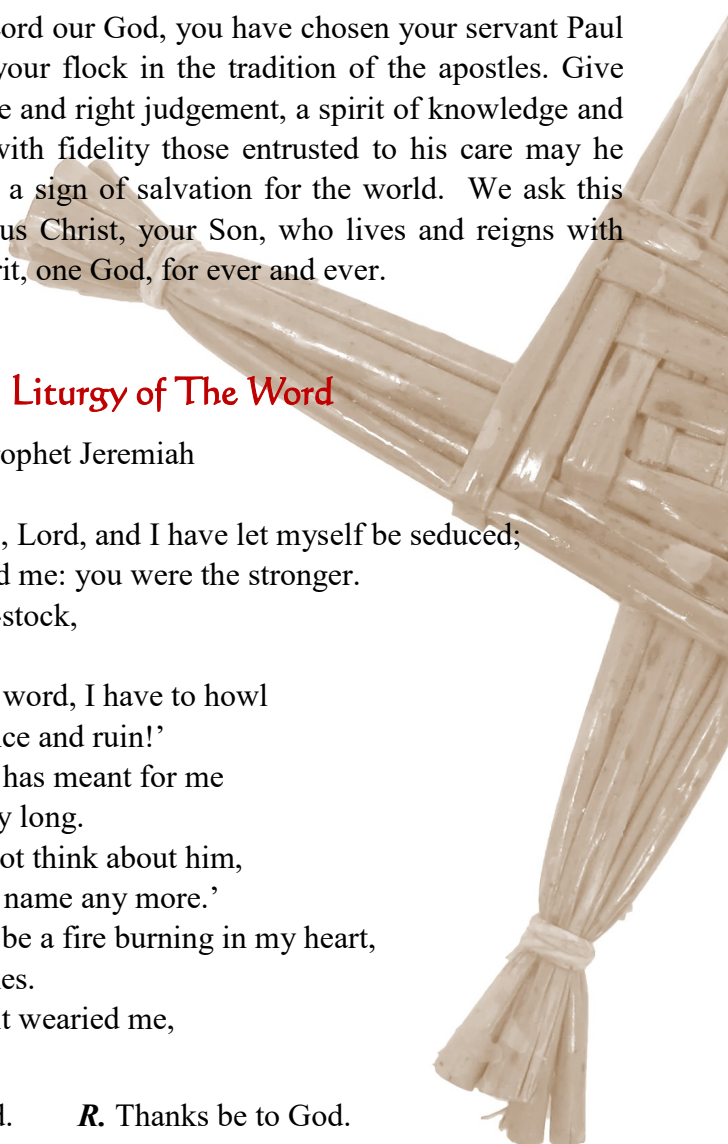
The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, 'I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.'

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

The word of The Lord. **R.** Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm “OH GOD YOU ARE MY GOD”

A reading from the letter of St Paul to The Romans.

Think of God’s mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

The word of The Lord. **R.** Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia (Fintan O’Carroll)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. ‘Heaven preserve you, Lord;’ he said ‘this must not happen to you.’ But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God’s way but man’s.’ Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life? ‘For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.’

The Gospel of The Lord. **R.** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Rite of Ordination

Bishop-elect Paul is led by his assisting priests to the chair of Archbishop Neary before whom he makes a sign of reverence.

The choir now leads the congregation in singing Veni Creator Spiritus. This is one of the most widely used hymns in the Church, and is attributed to Rabanus Maurus (776-856).

VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS



Veni Creátor Spiritus,
Mentes tuórum vísita;
Imple supérna grátia
Quae tu creásti péctora.

Qui díceris Paráclitus,
Altíssimi, donum Dei
Fons vivus, ignis cáritas,
Et spiritalís únctio.

Tu septifórmis múnere,
Digitus paternae dexteræ
Tu rite promíssum Patris,
Sermóne ditans gúttura.

Accénde lumen sénsibus,
Infúnde amórem córdibus,
Infirma nostri córporis
Virtúte firmans pèrpeti.

Hostem repéllas lóngius,
pacémque dones prótinus;
Ductóre sic te prævío,
Vitémus omne nóxium.

Per te sciámus da Patrem,
Noscámus atque Fílium,
Te utriúsque Spíritum
Credámus omni témpore.

Deo Patri sit gloria,
et Filio, qui moruis
surrexit, ac Paraclito
in saeculorum saecula.
(Amen.)

Presentation of The Bishop-elect

Father Dermot Meehan, the Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of Achonry, addresses Archbishop Neary:

Father Meehan: Most Reverend Father, the Church of Achonry asks you to ordain this priest, Paul Dempsey, for service as bishop.

Archbishop Neary: Have you a mandate from the Holy See?

Father Meehan: We have.

Archbishop Neary: Let it be read.

Everyone sits while the Apostolic Mandate is read by Father Dermot Meehan. After the Apostolic Mandate has been read, all present say:

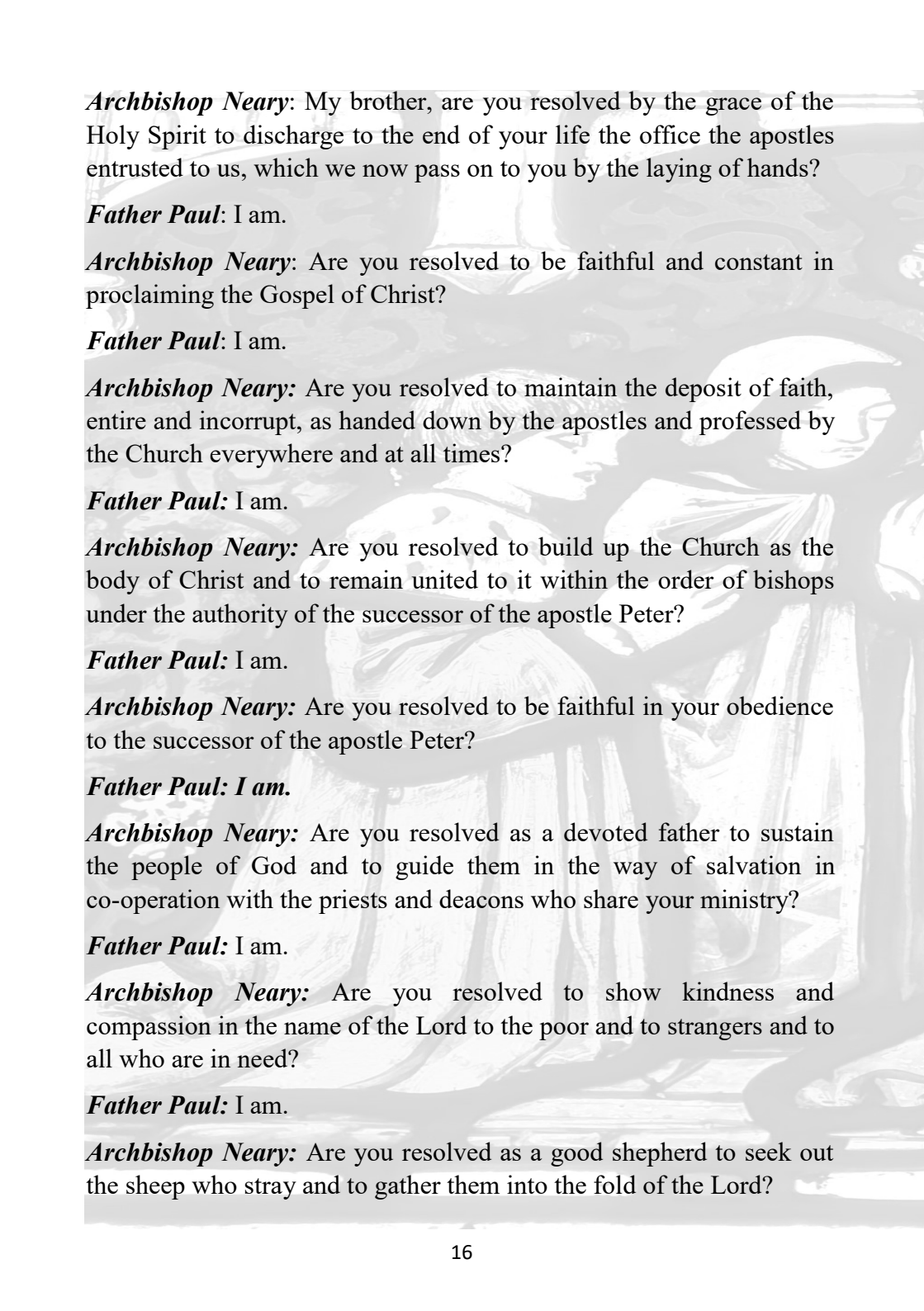
Thanks be to God.

Homily

Examination of the Bishop-elect

The bishop-elect then rises and stands in front of Archbishop Neary who questions him:

Archbishop Neary: An age-old custom of the Fathers decrees that a bishop-elect is to be questioned before the people on his resolve to uphold the faith and to discharge his duties faithfully.



Archbishop Neary: My brother, are you resolved by the grace of the Holy Spirit to discharge to the end of your life the office the apostles entrusted to us, which we now pass on to you by the laying of hands?

Father Paul: I am.

Archbishop Neary: Are you resolved to be faithful and constant in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ?

Father Paul: I am.

Archbishop Neary: Are you resolved to maintain the deposit of faith, entire and incorrupt, as handed down by the apostles and professed by the Church everywhere and at all times?

Father Paul: I am.

Archbishop Neary: Are you resolved to build up the Church as the body of Christ and to remain united to it within the order of bishops under the authority of the successor of the apostle Peter?

Father Paul: I am.

Archbishop Neary: Are you resolved to be faithful in your obedience to the successor of the apostle Peter?

Father Paul: I am.

Archbishop Neary: Are you resolved as a devoted father to sustain the people of God and to guide them in the way of salvation in co-operation with the priests and deacons who share your ministry?

Father Paul: I am.

Archbishop Neary: Are you resolved to show kindness and compassion in the name of the Lord to the poor and to strangers and to all who are in need?

Father Paul: I am.

Archbishop Neary: Are you resolved as a good shepherd to seek out the sheep who stray and to gather them into the fold of the Lord?

Father Paul: I am.

Archbishop Neary: Are you resolved to pray for the people of God without ceasing, and to carry out the duties of one who has the fullness of the priesthood so as to afford no grounds for reproach?

Father Paul: I am, with the help of God.

Archbishop Neary: May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfilment.

Invitation to Prayer

All stand. Archbishop Neary invites the people to pray.

Archbishop Neary: My dear people, let us pray that almighty God in his goodness will pour out his grace upon the man whom he has chosen to provide for the needs of the Church.

Father Paul prostrates before the Lord. we call on the saint in prayer to ask God's blessing on his ministry as bishop. (All kneel)

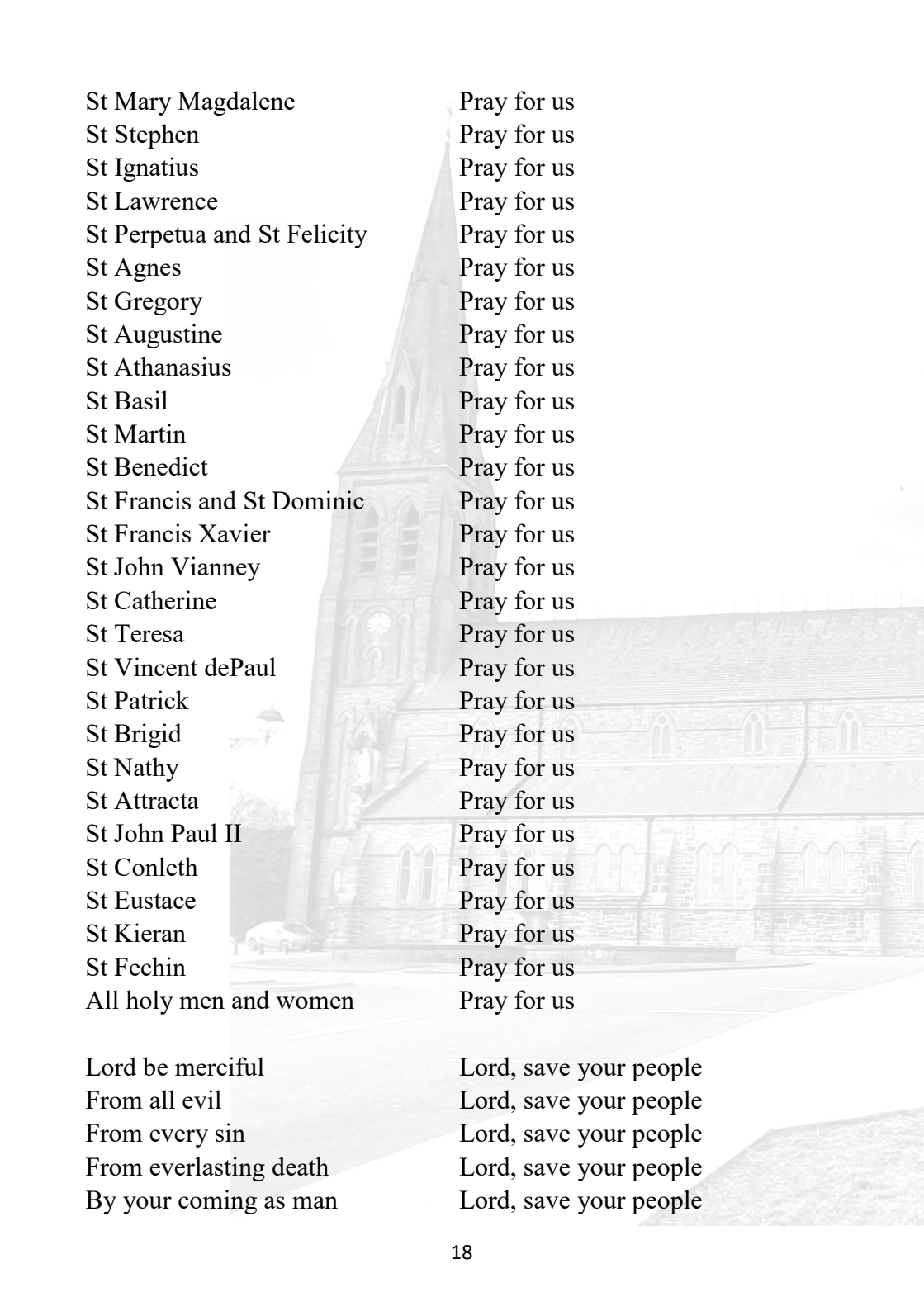
Litany of The Saints

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Holy Mary, Mother of God
Saint Michael
Holy angels of God
St John the Baptist
St Joseph
St Peter and St Paul
St Andrew
St James
St John

Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us



St Mary Magdalene	Pray for us
St Stephen	Pray for us
St Ignatius	Pray for us
St Lawrence	Pray for us
St Perpetua and St Felicity	Pray for us
St Agnes	Pray for us
St Gregory	Pray for us
St Augustine	Pray for us
St Athanasius	Pray for us
St Basil	Pray for us
St Martin	Pray for us
St Benedict	Pray for us
St Francis and St Dominic	Pray for us
St Francis Xavier	Pray for us
St John Vianney	Pray for us
St Catherine	Pray for us
St Teresa	Pray for us
St Vincent dePaul	Pray for us
St Patrick	Pray for us
St Brigid	Pray for us
St Nathy	Pray for us
St Attracta	Pray for us
St John Paul II	Pray for us
St Conleth	Pray for us
St Eustace	Pray for us
St Kieran	Pray for us
St Fechin	Pray for us
All holy men and women	Pray for us

Lord be merciful	Lord, save your people
From all evil	Lord, save your people
From every sin	Lord, save your people
From everlasting death	Lord, save your people
By your coming as man	Lord, save your people

By your death and rising
to new life

Lord, save your people

By your gift of the
Holy Spirit

Lord, save your people

Be merciful to us sinners

Lord, hear our prayer

Guide and protect your holy
church

Lord, hear our prayer

Keep the pope and all the
clergy in faithful
service to your
church

Lord, hear our prayer

Bring all peoples together
in trust and peace

Lord, hear our prayer

Strengthen us in your service

Lord, hear our prayer

Bless this chosen man

Lord, hear our prayer

Bless this chosen man and
make him holy

Lord, hear our prayer

Bless this chosen man and
make him holy and
consecrate him for
his sacred duties

Lord, hear our prayer

Jesus, son of the Living God
Christ, hear us

Lord, hear our prayer
Christ, hear us

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

After the Litany, Archbishop Neary alone stands and prays:

Lord God, listen to our prayers. Send this, your servant, the fullness of priestly grace and fill him with your powerful blessing. Through Christ our Lord.

Laying on of hands

It is by the laying on of hands that the Sacrament of Orders is conferred. The bishop-elect goes to Archbishop Neary and kneels before him. Then Archbishop Neary lays his hands on the head of the bishop-elect, in silence. After him, all the other bishops present do the same.

Book of the Gospels

Archbishop Neary places an open Book of the Gospels upon the head of the bishop-elect; the deacons, standing at either side of the bishop-elect, hold the Book of the Gospels above his head until the prayer of consecration is completed.

Prayer of Consecration

Archbishop Neary with hands extended over the bishop-elect says:

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Father of all mercies and God of all consolation, you dwell in heaven, yet look with compassion on all that is humble. You know all things before they come to be; by your gracious word you have established the plan of your Church. From the beginning you chose the descendants of Abraham to be your holy nation. You established rulers and priests, and did not leave your sanctuary without ministers to serve you. From the creation of the world you have been pleased to be glorified by those whom you have chosen.

The following part of the prayer is recited by all the consecrating bishops, with hands joined, saying:

So now pour out upon this chosen one that power which is from you,

the governing Spirit whom you gave to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, the Spirit given by him to the holy apostles, who founded the Church in every place to be your temple for the unceasing glory and praise of your name.

Archbishop Neary continues alone:

Father, you know all hearts. You have chosen your servant for the office of bishop. May he be a shepherd to your holy flock, and a high priest blameless in your sight, ministering to you night and day; may he always gain the blessing of your favour and offer the gifts of your holy Church. Through the Spirit who gives the grace of high priesthood grant him the power to forgive sins as you have commanded, to assign ministries as you have decreed, and to loose every bond by the authority which you gave to your apostles. May he be pleasing to you by his gentleness and purity of heart, presenting a fragrant offering to you, through Jesus Christ, your Son, through whom glory and power and honour are yours with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, now and forever.

Anointing with Chrism

Archbishop Neary takes the Holy oil of Chrism and anoints the head of the new Bishop saying:

Archbishop Neary: God has brought you to share the high priesthood of Christ. May he pour out on you the oil of mystical anointing and enrich you with spiritual blessings.

Presentation of the Book of the Gospels

Archbishop Neary hands the Book of the Gospels to the new bishop saying:

Receive the Gospel and preach the word of God with unfailing patience and sound teaching.

Investiture with Ring, Mitre and Crozier

Members of the Dempsey Family now bring to Archbishop Neary the symbols of Episcopal office.

Archbishop Neary places the ring on the right hand of the new bishop saying:

Take this ring, the seal of your fidelity. With faith and love protect the bride of God, his holy Church.

In silence Archbishop Neary places the mitre on the head of the new bishop.

Lastly, Archbishop Neary hands the pastoral staff to the new bishop saying:

Take this staff as a sign of your pastoral office: keep watch over the whole flock in which the Holy Spirit has anointed you to shepherd the Church of God.



Seating of the Bishop

Archbishop Neary invites Bishop Dempsey, the Bishop of Achonry, to occupy his Chair in the Cathedral.

During this time a piece of music, specially commissioned by the Diocese of Achonry and composed by Ronan McDonagh, a native of Kiltimagh parish, is sung. The refrain is a

traditional Irish prayer and the verses are taken from Psalm 99

Refrain: *Is céim go brách linn, is ábhar sócháis agus réim ghairdis dár sláinte gur tháinig teachtaire Chríost in ár ndháil.*

It is a great honour for us and a reason for rejoicing and a cause of joy for our salvation that Christ's messenger has come into our assembly

Liturgy of The Eucharist

Bishop Dempsey incenses the gifts and the altar. Then all stand as the concelebrants and congregation are incensed.

Bishop Dempsey: Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Gifts

Bishop Dempsey: Lord, accept these gifts which we offer on this day of my ordination. Enrich me with the gifts and virtues of a true apostle for the good of your people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit

Bishop: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Bishop: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

Bishop: Father, all powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks. You founded your Church on the apostles to stand firm forever as the sign on earth of your infinite holiness and as the living gospel for all peoples to hear. With steadfast love we sing your unending praise: we join with the hosts of Heaven in their triumphant song:

SANCTUS: (Glendalough Mass - Liam Lawton)

Communion Rite

Ár nAthair,
atá ar neamh,
go naofar d'ainm,
go dtaga do ríocht,
go ndéantar do thoil ar an talamh,
mar a dhéantar ar neamh.
Ár n-arán laethúil tabhair dúinn inniu,
agus maith dúinn ár bhfiacha,
mar a mhaithimidne dár bhféichiúna féin,
agus ná lig sinn i gcathú, ach saor sinn ó olc.

Bishop Dempsey: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion (with those joining us via livestream)

Communion Hymns

Take and Eat

Refrain

Take and eat, take and eat

This is my body given up for you

Take and drink, take and drink

This is my blood given up for you

I will be the vine

Post Communion Hymn

In Christ Alone

Prayer after Communion

Bishop Dempsey: Lord, by the power of these holy mysteries, increase in me, your unworthy servant, the gifts of wisdom and love. May I fulfil my pastoral ministry and receive the eternal rewards you promise to your faithful servants. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Bishop's Blessing

Bishop Dempsey is led by the consecrating bishops through the cathedral, and he blesses the congregation.

Instrumental "Glendalough Theme" (Liam Lawton)

Afterwards Bishop Dempsey, the Bishop of Achonry addresses the congregation.

Solemn Blessing

Bishop Dempsey: Lord God, you care for your people with kindness, you rule them with love. Give your Spirit of wisdom to the bishops you have made teachers and pastors. By advancing in holiness may the flock become the eternal joy of the shepherds. **All:** Amen.

Bishop Dempsey: Lord God, by your power you allot us the number of our days and the measure of our years. Look favourably upon the service we perform for you, and give true lasting peace in our time. **All:** Amen.

Bishop Dempsey: Lord God, now that you have raised me to the order of bishops, may I please you in the performance of my office. Unite the hearts of people and bishop, so that the shepherd may not be without the support of his flock, or the flock without the loving concern of its shepherd. **All:** Amen.

Bishop Dempsey: And may almighty God bless you, the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit. **All:** Amen.

Deacon: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn

Easter Magnificat (Ronan McDonagh)

The Chair

In ancient times, a chair was a sign of authority to teach. The bishop's chair is called a cathedra from the Latin word for chair and it is the presence of the bishop's cathedra in a church that makes it a cathedral. The bishop's chair, then is a symbol of the bishop's teaching office in the diocese. It is also a sign of the unity of believers in the faith that the bishop proclaims as shepherd of the Lord's flock.

The Ring

The bishop's ring is a symbol of the bishop's fidelity to and nuptial bond with the church, his spouse. The bishop's ring was first mentioned as an official part of the bishop's insignia in the early seventh century.

The Crozier

The crozier is a pastoral staff that is conferred on bishops (and abbots) at their installation. The top of the staff is curved to remind the bishop of the shepherd's crook and of his pastoral care of the people entrusted to him. It is a sign of the bishop's need to keep watch over his whole flock, sustaining the weak and faltering, confirming the wavering faith, and leading back the erring ones into the true fold.

Pectoral Cross

The pectoral cross gets its name because it is worn over the breast, or pectus. It hangs from a green cord intertwined with gold threads during liturgies or from a chain at other time.

Diocese of Achonry

St. Finian established a church in Achonry (Irish Achadh Chonaire, the field of Conaire), Co. Sligo, in the sixth century and placed his pupil Nathy in charge of it. The boundaries of the diocese emerged in the early twelfth century and it was formally established by the Synod of Kells in 1152 when the present Irish diocesan structure was laid out.

St. Nathy and St. Attracta are the patrons of the diocese. St. Attracta had her convent in Killaraght (Irish “*Cill Araght*”, the church of Attracta), where she was renowned for her charity and her hospitality. A very old tradition associates her with St. Patrick, which would place her in the fifth century and close to the origins of Christianity in Ireland.

From 1603 to 1707 there was no bishop in Achonry and the diocese was administered during that time by apostolic vicars. Yet, during this period, though persecuted and impoverished, a vibrant church flourished, with its own homespun and all pervasive spirituality and rituals.

With Catholic education proscribed by law, hedge-schools abounded and young priests, ordained at home, went to one of the many Irish continental colleges for their theological training. Most returned to the Irish mission. Among those who did not was Andrew Donlevy who was appointed superior of the student community of the Irish College, Paris. There in 1742 he published his famous Irish-English Catechism.

The diocese became the heart of what was later called 'O'Carolan country' and his compositions read like a Who's Who of Achonry. Among his compositions was “Seán O’Hairt” who was bishop of the diocese from 1735 to 1739. Perhaps the best known Achonry born saint is St. Fechin.

The Cathedral

Bishop Patrick Durcan (1852-75), the diocesan bishop in the third quarter of the nineteenth century was the one who decided to build the Cathedral. The commission to build the Cathedral went to the architectural firm of Weightman, Hadfield and Goldie in 1855.

It is thought that Hadfield was probably the main architect involved in this commission; he corresponded with Augustus Welby Pugin in 1849-50, and Pugin, as the designer of Enniscorthy Cathedral and Killarney Cathedral, would have had knowledge of the Irish architectural scene.

Within five years Ballaghaderreen had a Gothic church echoing medieval English and French models. The Cathedral's spire is visible for miles around in the flat landscape of north-west Roscommon. Curiously, however, this tower was not part of the original design, but a 1912 addition by the Dublin architect William H Byrne, who also installed a fine carillon of bells.

The Cathedral is built of grey limestone and is 45.72m long, 17.9m wide and 20.4m high to the apex of the nave; the height to the tip of the spire is 56.9m. The aisles have large two-light windows by Franz Mayer & Co. of Munich, which are original, while those over the confessionals are probably by Earley. The Saint John and Saint Anne windows of 1907 may be by Beatrice Elvery of An Túr Gloine, who also worked in Loughrea in the neighbouring county of Galway.

Further large windows commemorate Charles Dillon, 14th Viscount Dillon, in the Baptistery, and Charles Strickland, the agent for Viscount Dillon, in a chapel on the south side of the sanctuary. Strickland was associated with the building of the neighbouring town of Charlestown and its church. The window was erected by the Bishop of Achonry and others to 'commemorate their respect and esteem for Charles Strickland and his wife Maria.'

Acknowledgements

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The presence and support of Archbishop Neary, Archbishop Okolo, Bishop Nulty
and all our visitors and guests is acknowledged with appreciation.

A sincere thank you to our choir and organist Antoinette Byrne, under the direction
of Maria Moynihan. Thanks also to our traditional musicians Gráinne Horan and
Fr James McDonagh. Thanks to Father Thomas Towey for his guidance and input.
Thanks also to Ronan McDonagh for his specially commissioned composition
“Fáilte Roimh Teachtair Chríost”

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the Cathedral Sacristan and staff, and all who made us welcome here today.

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Booklet layout and design Fr. Vincent Sherlock
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*Images of Ss Nathy and Attracta
from Stained Glass Windows in St Aidan's Church, Monasteraden, Co. Sligo*

“My
house
shall be
called
a house
of prayer
for all
the
nations”

(Matthew 21.13)

