

Holy Oils in the Diocese of Kootenay

Oil is a powerful symbol in our tradition; we have records of its use for the anointing of kings, for healing and for baptism. In this diocese the Bishop consecrates Oil for Anointing for healing and Chrism for baptism. There are some important points to remember about the use of consecrated oils.

- There is one vial of each kind of oil for each parish. All clergy associated with that parish should recharge their stocks from this common supply. A small amount of additional oil is available at the Cathedral should it be needed.
- The use of consecrated oil is limited to clergy and those lay people who have the Bishop's permission to anoint those who are sick.
- Oil for anointing is fine quality olive oil to which a small amount of oil of cloves has been added.
- Chrism is made from fine quality olive oil with the addition a very small amount of balsam pitch and pure rose oil. The scents are distinctive enough that one can easily distinguish between the two oils.
- Consecrated oils should be stored in an Aumbry or in the Sacristy.
- Oils will go rancid in time so they should be renewed frequently - at least annually.
- Old oil should be disposed of reverently. It may be absorbed in towelling and burned or poured out onto the ground in an area that is associated with the church such as a cemetery, memorial garden or planted area.

For further reading see pages 616 and 617 of The Book of Alternative Services.

*Heavenly Father,
you anointed your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit and with power
to bring the good news of your kingdom.
Anoint your Church with the same Holy Spirit, that we who share in his suffering and his victory
may bear witness to the gospel of salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*