

# Hands & Holy Order

## MORNING PRAYER

Monday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### REFLECTION

Reflect for a moment on the hands of Jesus.

From when he was a teenager, Jesus must have used his hands to work, helping Joseph as a carpenter.

He had skilful hands.

From the beginning of his mission in Galilee, Jesus used his hands to cure the sick.

He had healing hands.

Often in the course of his mission, Jesus would raise his hands to bless people or to banish evil spirits from those who were in the slavery of sin.

He had powerful hands.

And then on the cross, his hands were stretched out against the wood of the cross and pierced with nails.

He had broken hands.

Those skilful, healing, powerful and broken hands were the hands the Risen Lord Jesus showed to doubting Thomas.

Saint Thomas put his finger into the deep wounds of those hands which he knew so well, fell down and worshipped Jesus.

He was the first person to simply call Jesus 'God'.

### PRAYERS

Let us ask the Risen Lord Jesus to guide us in our daily lives, and inspire us to dedicate the work of our hands for the greater glory of God and the coming of his Kingdom on earth.

Our Father....

St Philip....**pray for us.**

*House Saint...***pray for us.**

In the name...

# Hands & Holy Order

Tuesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## REFLECTION

At the sacred ordination of a new priest, the candidate begins by being seated among the people in the congregation, with his family.

And then one of the priests present calls out his name.

The new priest-to-be stands up, and says loudly 'Here I am!'

This is supposed to represent him answering the call of God.

And this is to be his vocation... to answer the call of God.

The candidate is then called out from among the people and goes to kneel before the Bishop, who lays his hands on the new priest's head, and then the new priest puts his hands into the hands of the Bishop.

In doing this, he is offering his hands and his whole life in the service of Christ.

Lastly, he promises to be guided by the Bishop who he recognises as successor to the Apostles in the service of the Church.

In those ways the priest becomes a real *minister*.

To *minister*, means to *serve*.

The new priest's vocation is to serve Christ by serving the people of God, and by rendering service to the Bishop as successor to the Apostles.

## PRAYERS

Let us pray for those who will be ordained to the priesthood in the coming months, that they make good and holy priests, and find joy in the service of Christ.

Lord, hear us...

Let us pray for all priests, that they never lose the memory of their calling to be real ministers and servants of the Church.

Lord, hear us...

St Philip....**pray for us.** *House Saint...***pray for us.**

In the name...

# Hands & Holy Order

Wednesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## REFLECTION

When the priest puts his hands into the Bishop's hands at his ordination, it is also the moment when Jesus is putting Himself into the hands of a new priest; Jesus is entrusting himself to the priest, especially at Mass, when the priest raises his hands over the bread and wine, and then holds the Body and Blood of Christ before the people of God.

Jesus entrusts himself to the priest, when the priest raises his hands in absolution over the penitents who come to confess their sins.

Jesus entrusts himself to the priest every time the priest blesses the people.

That is why the vocation to the priesthood is such an exalted vocation.

And also why the people of God need to *pray* for their priests, and support them in their struggle to live up to their calling, and in the sacrifices that they make on behalf of the Church.

## PRAYERS

Let us pray that many young men might be attentive to the calling of God, and find the courage to say '*Here I am! I have come to do your will.*'

Lord, hear us...

St Philip....**pray for us.**

*House Saint*...**pray for us.**

In the name...

# Hands & Holy Order

Thursday

THE 8.20 MASS TOMORROW IS OFFERED FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR  
THEIR ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

## ROSARY REFLECTION

Let us offer up our Rosary for new priests:

### **THE FIFTH MYSTERY OF LIGHT: THE INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST**

*While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he  
broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,  
'Take, eat; this is my body.'*

1x Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. **Give us this day...**

10x Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. **Holy Mary...**

1x Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. **As it was...**In the name...

# Hands & Holy Order

Friday

FRIDAY PRAYER

O God,  
who willed to provide shepherds for your people;  
pour out in your Church a spirit of piety and fortitude,  
to raise up worthy ministers for our altars  
and make them ardent but gentle heralds of your  
Gospel,

Through Christ our Lord,  
Amen.