

# THE CELEBRATION OF THE SECOND SCRUTINY (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

(WITHIN MASS)



**DIOCESE OF MEATH**

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RCIA, 151-156

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## LITURGY OF THE WORD

151. The texts and readings for Mass are always those given for the second scrutiny in the Missal and the Lectionary for Mass among the ritual Masses, 'Christian Initiation: The Scrutinies' (Vol. III, p. 5, which simply cross-refers to Vol. I, pp. 276-280, and offers an alternative First Reading (Exodus 13:21-22).

## HOMILY

152 After the readings and guided by them, the celebrant explains in the homily the meaning of the second scrutiny in the light of the Lenten liturgy and of the spiritual journey of the elect.

## INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER FOR ELECT

153 After the homily, the elect with their godparents come forward and stand before the celebrant.

**Celebrant: I now invite the Elect with their Godparents to come forward.**

The celebrant first addresses the assembly of the faithful, inviting them to pray in silence and to ask that the elect be given a spirit of repentance, a sense of sin, and the true freedom of the children of God.

**Celebrant: Today the Church calls the Elect to conversion.  
To deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out the decision to love God above all.  
Let us all pray at this time in silence for them to be given a spirit of repentance,  
a sense of sin  
and strength of will to live in true freedom as children of God.**

The celebrant then addresses the elect, inviting them also to pray in silence and suggesting that as a sign of their inner spirit of repentance they bow their heads or kneel; he concludes his remarks with the following or similar words:

**Celebrant: My dear Elect,  
I invite you to join your prayers to this community of faith,  
as we intercede to God on your behalf.**

The elect bow their heads or kneel, and all pray for some time in

silence. After the period of silent prayer, the celebrant invites the community and the elect stand for the intercessions.

## INTERCESSIONS FOR THE ELECT

154. Either of the following formularies, options A or B, may be used for the intercessions for the elect and both the introduction and the intentions may be adapted to fit various circumstances. During the intercessions the godparents stand with their right hand on the shoulder of the elect.

[If decided, in accord with no. 157, that after the dismissal of the elect the usual general intercessions of the Mass are to be omitted and that the liturgy of the eucharist is to begin immediately, intentions for the Church and the whole world are to be added to the following intentions for the elect.]

**Celebrant:** Let us pray for these elect whom God has called,  
that they may remain faithful to him  
and boldly give witness to the words of eternal life.

### A

*Deacon, Lector, or another minister:*

That, trusting in the truth of Christ, they may find freedom of mind and heart and preserve it always. **Lord, hear us.**

That, preferring the folly of the cross to the wisdom of the world, they may glory in God alone. **Lord, hear us.**

That, freed by the power of the Spirit, they may put all fear behind them and press forward with confidence. **Lord, hear us.**

That, transformed in the Spirit, they may seek those things that are holy and just. **Lord, hear us.**

That all who suffer persecution for Christ's name may find their strength in him. **Lord, hear us.**

That those families and nations prevented from embracing the faith may be granted freedom to believe the Gospel. **Lord, hear us.**

That we who are faced with the values of the world

may remain faithful to the spirit of the Gospel. **Lord, hear us.**

That the whole world, which the Father so loves,  
may attain in the Church complete spiritual freedom. **Lord, hear us.**

**B**

*Deacon, Lector, or another minister:*

That God may dispel darkness and be the light that shines in the hearts  
of our elect. **Lord, hear us.**

That he may gently lead them to Christ, the light of the world. **Lord,  
hear us.**

That our elect may open their hearts to God and acknowledge him as the  
source of light and the witness of truth. **Lord, hear us.**

That he may heal them and preserve them from the unbelief of this  
world. **Lord, hear us.**

That, saved by him who takes away the sin of the world, they may be  
freed from the contagion and forces of sin. **Lord, hear us.**

That, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they may never fail to profess the  
Good News of salvation and share it with others. **Lord, hear us.**

That all of us, by the example of our lives, may become in Christ the  
light of the world. **Lord, hear us.**

That every inhabitant of the earth may acknowledge the true God, the  
Creator of all things, who bestows upon us the gift of Spirit and life.  
**Lord, hear us.**

## **EXORCISM**

155. After the intercessions, the rite continues with one of the following exorcisms.

**A**

The Celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined, says:

**Celebrant:** Father of mercy,  
you led the man born blind  
to the kingdom of light  
through the gift of faith in your Son.

Free these elect  
from the false values that surround and blind them.  
Set them firmly in your truth,  
children of the light for ever.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

Here, if this can be done conveniently, the celebrant lays hands on each one of the elect.

Then, with hands outstretched over all of them, he continues:

**Celebrant:** Lord Jesus,  
you are the true light that enlightens the world.  
Through your Spirit of truth  
free those who are enslaved by the father of lies.  
Stir up the desire for good in these elect,  
whom you have chosen for your sacraments.  
Let them rejoice in your light, that they may see,  
and, like the man born blind whose sight you restored,  
let them prove to be staunch and fearless witnesses to the  
faith,  
for you are Lord for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen

**B**

The celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined, says:

**Celebrant:** Lord, God  
source of unfailing light,  
by the death and resurrection of Christ  
you have cast out the darkness of hatred and lies  
and poured forth the light of truth and love  
upon the human family.

**Hear our prayers for these elect,  
whom you have called to be your adopted children.**

**Enable them to pass from darkness to light  
and, delivered from the prince of darkness,  
to live always as children of the light.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**All: Amen.**

*Here, if this can be done conveniently, the celebrant lays hands on each one of the elect.*

*Then, with hands outstretched over all the elect, he continues:*

**Celebrant: Lord, Jesus,  
at your own baptism  
the heavens were opened  
and you received the Holy Spirit  
to empower you to proclaim the Good News to the poor  
and restore sight to the blind.**

**Pour out the same Holy Spirit on these elect,  
who long for your sacraments.  
Guide them along the paths of right faith,  
safe from error, doubt, and unbelief,  
so that with eyes unsealed  
they may come to see you face to face,  
for your live and reign for ever and ever.**

**All: Amen.**

*An appropriate song may be sung, for example, Psalm 6, 25(26), 31(32), 37(38), 38(39), 39(40), 50(51), 115(116):1-9, 129(130), 138(139), or 141(142).*

## **DISMISSAL OF THE ELECT**

*156. If the eucharist is to be celebrated, the elect are normally dismissed at this point by use of option A; if the elect are to stay for the celebration of the eucharist, option B is used; if the eucharist is not to be celebrated, the entire assembly is dismissed by use of option C.*

The celebrant dismisses the elect in these of similar words.

A

**Celebrant:** Dear elect, go in peace,  
and join us again at the next scrutiny.  
May the Lord remain with you always.

**Elect:** Amen.

B

If for serious reasons the elect cannot leave (see no. 75,3) and must remain with the baptized, they are to be instructed that though they are present at the eucharist, they cannot take part in it as the baptized do. They may be reminded of this by the celebrant in these or similar words.

**Celebrant:** Although you cannot yet participate fully in the Lord's eucharist, stay with us as a sign of our hope that all God's children will eat and drink with the Lord and work with his Spirit to re-create the face of the earth.

C

The celebrant dismisses those present, using these or similar words.

**Celebrant:** Go in peace,  
And may the Lord remain with you always.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

An appropriate song may conclude the celebration.

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

When the eucharist is to follow, intercessory prayer is resumed with the usual general intercessions for the needs of the Church and the whole world; then, if required, the profession of faith is said. But for pastoral reasons these general intercessions and the profession of faith may be omitted. The liturgy of the eucharist then begins as usual with the preparation of the gifts. In the eucharistic prayer there is to be a remembrance of the elect and their godparents (see ritual Mass 'Christian Initiation: The Scrutinies').