

Diocesan Chrism Mass in Luxembourg - Holy Week 2005

The Anglican Chaplaincy in Luxembourg was the chosen venue this year for the Chrism Mass. This is an annual celebration held during Holy Week for all diocesan clergy to renew their ordination vows and for the Bishop to bless oil for sacramental use in the coming year. Lay people are of course also invited to attend.

As our Diocese is so vast and chaplaincies in some cases very far distant from each other this gathering is generally small, but those who attend come together to represent and to pray for those clergy who are unable to be present themselves.

This year in Luxembourg we had the honour of the presence not only of Bishop Geoffrey Rowell, our Diocesan Bishop, but also of Bishop David Hamid, our Suffragan Bishop, and the new Archdeacon Dirk van Leeuwen. Priests from the chaplaincies in Paris, Strasbourg and Luxembourg were present, as were our choir and a small number of our congregation. Reverend Alexander Gordon from Strasbourg preached and all the priests took part in a concelebration of the eucharist. This was the first time many of the congregation had attended a celebration of this nature and found it to be a very moving occasion.

Three separate vessels of oil were blessed, one to be used for the anointing of the sick and the second for those who will be baptized. The third, for those who will be confirmed or ordained, was mixed with fragrant oil from different flowers, a combination which added a new dimension to the worship.

Photographs of the Chrism Mass are in the [Photo Gallery](#).