

The Bishop of Blackburn
The Rt Revd Julian T Henderson

Thursday 24th March 2022
By email only

Regarding the Chrism Eucharist 14th April

Dear colleagues

I am writing to you now that the plans for the Chrism Eucharist have been finalised in the hope that you will be able to attend.

Two years ago we had to cancel the service and last year those who were able to attend did so in masks, maintaining a social distance and we were not able to sing God's praise as we gathered together as His people.

I am therefore delighted that, although we will still have some practical mitigations in place, this year's service will be much more normal and will once again be the opportunity to come as those whom God has called to service in His Church and renew our vows together.

The service will start at **11am at Blackburn Cathedral on Thursday the 14th April**. Priests and Deacons will be able to robe if you wish and space will be made available in the North or South Transept for you to do so. I ask that you either wear an alb and white stole or cassock, surplice and preaching scarf for the service. There will be space in the congregation for those who do not wish to robe and for other lay people who would like to attend the service. If you are robing I ask that you arrive at least 30 minutes before the start of the service.

As is tradition, the oils of chrism, baptism and for the sick will be blessed and made available at the end of the service. Containers will be provided so you do not need to bring your own. We have previously had a soup lunch in the cathedral crypt but that space is still being used for the important vaccination programme so we will finish our time together this year at the end of the service. I am very much looking forward to inviting all clergy and their spouse or supporter to Bishop's House for a meal during tent week in June and July this year and will send dates out for you to book very soon.

The service will be live streamed via the cathedral's social media sites this year but I do encourage you to attend in person if that is possible as the coming together in fellowship and renewal of vows is an important part of our calling.

I look forward to gathering together with you once more at this important service.

As ever

+ Julian
