

**An Annual Celebration of  
Unity and Communion**

## The Chrism Mass



The Chrism Mass 2026  
will be celebrated  
on March 25, at 1:30pm  
at the cathedral parish of  
Notre-Dame-de l'Assomption,  
in Hearst

The Chrism Mass, presided over by the bishop, brings together the priests and faithful of the diocese in a spirit of unity and communion.

It has its origins in ancient biblical and liturgical traditions. The Greek word *chrísma*, meaning “anointing », is the basis of the term “Chrism”. In the Old Testament, anointing with oil symbolised divine consecration, particularly for kings and priests such as Saul and David, who were anointed by Samuel. This practice reflected God’s presence and blessing.

In the New Testament, Jesus himself refers to anointing when he quotes Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me” (Luke 4:18). This quotation underlines the spiritual importance of anointing in the Christian mission.

Over the centuries, the Church has incorporated this symbolism into its liturgy. The Chrism Mass, as we know it today, has developed to include the blessing of the holy oils and the consecration of the holy chrism. These oils are used in various sacraments, reinforcing their link with the spiritual life of the faithful.

This celebration has also evolved into a moment of diocesan unity, when the bishop, priests and faithful come together to renew their commitment to the faith. Therefore, in the first instance, it celebrates the unity between the bishop and the priests. During the ceremony, the priests renew their priestly promises, affirming their commitment to their vocation and their obedience to the bishop. This act symbolises the common mission to serve God’s people.

Secondly, the Chrism Mass is marked by the blessing and consecration of the oils used in the sacraments throughout the year: the oil for catechumens, the oil for the sick and the holy chrism. The oil of the catechumens is used for baptism, symbolising the strength needed to follow the Christian faith. The oil of the sick is used

in the sacrament of the anointing of the sick, bringing comfort and spiritual healing. Holy chrism, which is perfumed, is used in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and priestly ordination, symbolising the presence and action of the Holy Spirit.

The bishop plays a central role in this celebration. He consecrates the holy chrism and blesses the other oils. The priests, for their part, take an active part in the Mass, notably by renewing their vows and showing their communion with the bishop. The faithful, for their part, are invited to pray for their priests and their bishop, and to renew their own commitment to their Christian vocation.

The Chrism Mass is therefore a high point in the life of the diocese, combining renewal, unity and preparation for the Easter celebrations. It underlines the importance of the sacraments in the Christian life and strengthens the bonds between the different members of the Church. A true celebration of faith and the Christian community.



**An annual collection  
for the most needy**

The collection for Development and Peace is held each year on the fifth Sunday of Lent, which is already this week. Once a year. But it is also possible to support throughout the year by visiting their website at <https://devp.org>.

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada helps marginalized populations on a daily basis by supporting our partners in developing countries.

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