



The
Diocese of Huron

Diocesan Council

April 8, 2026

Highlights

LEARNING CHURCH MOMENT:

Archdeacon Stephen shared information regarding Sacred Oils and the Ministry of Anointing:

There are three different holy oils that are blessed by the bishop as part of a celebration of Holy Eucharist usually (in the Diocese of Huron) celebrated mid-day Thursday in Holy Week

HOLY CHRISM (SC; *Sacrum Chrisma*), which is used for baptisms. It is scented with balsam, which smells like evergreen fir. It may be designated by a white ribbon or cloth.

OIL OF THE SICK (OI; *Oleum Infirmorum*), which is used for the anointing of the sick and the dying. It is scented with bergamot, which has a lemony scent. It may be designated by a violet ribbon or cloth. (Oil of the Sick may also be unscented.)

OIL OF THE CATECHUMENS (OS; *Oleum Sanctorum* or OC; *Oleum Catechumenorum*), which is used only for those preparing for baptism (candidates/catechumens) and signifies the strength that God gives to those who are coming to faith but have not yet been baptized. It is unscented. It may be designated by a green ribbon or cloth.

Holy Chrism and the Oil of the Sick will be distributed to parishes following the Blessing of the Oils Eucharist. This year, Oil of the Catechumens will be blessed only at the Eucharist at St Paul's Cathedral and will be available through the Territorial Archdeacon. It is intended to be used only in the context of a liturgy of acceptance and election to the catechumenate that is being developed by the Diocesan Doctrine & Worship Committee.

It is appropriate that the holy oils, having been consecrated by the bishop, are presented and received in the parish during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. This reception is most appropriate on Maundy Thursday, especially if there are to be baptisms at the Great Vigil of Easter, but may be observed on any day when the Holy Eucharist is celebrated in the parish. The oils, after their reception, should be stored in suitable vessels and kept in an ambry, in the sanctuary or near the baptismal font.

A short liturgical act to mark the reception of the oils in the parish is available in the Liturgical Standards and Other Resources section of the Diocese of Huron web site: <https://diohuron.org/resources/clergy-resources/pages/liturgical-standards-other-resources>

UPCOMING IN-PERSON

DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING

Normally Diocesan Council meets monthly via MS Teams but twice a year the Council has the opportunity to have a longer in-depth and in-person meeting.

Diocesan Council is looking forward to coming together on Saturday, June 6th for a day of fulsome and prayerful conversations and considerations regarding the continued work of our Diocese.

BISHOP'S CORNER:

Bishop Todd shared with Diocesan Council a reflection of the Installation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullaly who was installed on March 23, 2026 and the significance of the Archbishop Mullaly being the first female Archbishop of Canterbury. There were many celebrations in our diocese and across Canada. A special mention of the Gathering of Women in our Diocese at St. Jude's, London on that day to celebrate along with others globally.

Bishop Todd highlighted that this year is the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women. A National Gathering is being held at the Diocese of Island and Inlets in Victoria, British Columbia, from November 23-26, 2026 and plans are coming together to have a diocesan celebration as well to celebrate and uphold the amazing pioneering efforts of the women in the Anglican Communion. Of special note, on May 1st, The Rev'd Dr. Virginia Lane celebrates the 50th anniversary of her ordination as she continues to serve in our Diocese through her retirement.

Bishop Todd also highlighted the upcoming Vocations Event scheduled for Saturday, April 18th at St. James Westminster, London. The event is for anyone who is drawn to any kind of ministry (lay and ordained). Registration information was sent out to the diocese via email.