



St John

St John Prayer Book

Pro Fide - Pro Utilitate Hominum

For The Faith and In the Service of Humanity



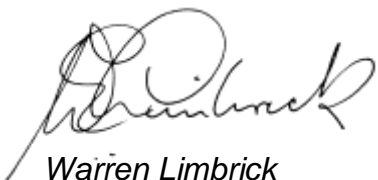
Preface

In recent years the Grand Council of the international Order of St John has given considerable attention to matters relating to the first of our Order's Foundational Mottoes, *Pro Fide*, – For the Faith. At its meeting in Victoria, British Columbia, in 2005 the Grand Council affirmed the Christian nature of the Order, while emphasising that membership of St John is open to persons of any faith tradition who can, in good conscience, support our aims. The Christian faith continues to inform and motivate the work of the Order whose long history gives it a unique identity which distinguishes it from other charitable bodies. Our commitment to caring service is an outcome of that faith.

It is in keeping with that affirmation that this collection of prayers is offered for the first time. The St John Prayer Book makes accessible prayers for St John which might be useful both to St John Chaplains, and to any St John member called upon to lead prayers at a meeting, camp, dedication or any other occasion.

Joining in prayerful reflection – with others or alone – sharpens our appreciation of St John. By naming in prayer the diversity of our work, we create solidarity with our colleagues – and enhance our appreciation of how we might support them both in attitude and in practice. I believe that in presenting our work to God we open our work to God's light, and are ourselves enlightened. I commend it to your use.

I am grateful to those Chaplains who have contributed to this Prayer Book out of their wealth of experience over the years and to Peter Wood, Order Matters Director. Without his encouragement and patient assistance the editorial task would not have been completed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warren Limbrick', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Warren Limbrick

Priory Dean

Feast of St John the Baptist – 24 June 2006

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General Prayers of the Order in this Priory

The following prayers, used at Order Investitures, are particularly suitable for St John services and other more formal occasions. The prayers may be concluded with a simple Amen, an ascription or a response by the people (for example our customary usage as following Prayer #1):

1. For the Queen, Sovereign Head of the Order of St John

Eternal God, the source of all authority and the fount of all wisdom, bless and preserve Elizabeth our Queen, the Sovereign Head of our Order, all the Royal Family, and the family of Commonwealth nations she upholds; guard and guide all who are in authority under her, especially the elected representatives of our people in Parliament and the local authorities of this land; that enriched by your Holy Spirit, we may attain justice, equity and peace in our life together.

God of Grace,
Hear our prayer

2. For Those Holding Responsibility in the Order of St John ¹

Guide and bless, we pray, those who serve this Order of St John: for Richard, Duke of Gloucester, the Grand Prior and all who serve the Order internationally, for **His/Her** Excellency The Governor-General, our Prior; for The Chancellor, Members of Priory Chapter and its Officers; the Priory Trust Board, and all who serve in the Regions, grant that they may administer the Order with faith and vision, skill and energy, and make strong its life and purpose.

3. For the St John Hospital in Jerusalem

God of Love, your Son Jesus Christ healed the sick, brought sight to the blind, and restored them to wholeness of life, bless, we pray, the work of the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem. We give thanks for the skill and faithfulness of its staff, and pray that it may continue to be a centre of light and healing in the midst of suffering and adversity; through Him who is the light and hope of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord.

¹ The Queen may be included here if the first prayer is not used

4. **For All Who Serve St John** ²

Everliving God, guide and strengthen all who serve by seeking to relieve the suffering of the sick and injured: those who staff our ambulances and who attend events to offer comfort and care to people in crisis and distress; those who support and encourage the aged and infirm; those who offer and receive training for first aid in our communities; those who enlarge the vision of our young to discover the joys and fellowship of service; those whose service in management and administration makes our work possible; and for all those whose dedicated service and generosity of support builds firm foundations for such care; give insight, patience and compassion to all who serve through St John, thankfulness for its strong tradition, and shield them from every kind of harm.

5. **Prayer to Commemorate St John the Baptist**

This prayer honours our patron saint and is especially suitable for use at a St John Day Service.

God our strength and our hope,
Grant us the courage of John the Baptist who prepared the way for the coming of Jesus and gave testimony in the face of great evil; we praise you for his faithfulness in your service; and we seek your grace this day
to live our lives in the service of mercy, truth and justice. **Amen**

6. **The Pro Fide Prayer** ³

Preserve us, O Lord, in the number of the faithful.
Grant us the means and opportunity to do good, resolution to persevere, and grace to attain to fullness of life; so that, as we have been united in Christ's service on earth, we may also be united in His eternal presence; through Jesus Christ the Servant, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

² An alternative prayer is found below, # 8

³ A traditional prayer of the Order, with minor revision.

7. **The Lord's Prayer (i – iii)**

(i) *The Revised English text*⁴:

Our Father in Heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in Heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and forever. **Amen**

(ii) *The Lord's Prayer in Maori*:

E to matou Matua i te rangi
Kia tapu tou Ingoa
Kia tae mai tou rangitiratanga.
Kia meatia tau e pai ai
ki runga ki te whenua, kia rite ano ki to te rangi.
Homai ki a matou aianei
He taro ma matou mo tenei ra.
Murua o matou hara,
Me matou hoki e muru nei
i o te hunga e hara ana ki a matou.
Aua hoki matou e kawea kia whakawaia;
Engari whakaorangia matou i te kino:
Nou hoki te rangitiratanga, te kaha,
me te kororia, Ake ake ake. **Amine**

(iii) *The traditional Version*:

Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen**

⁴ Originally revised by the ecumenical International Consultation on English Texts, 1975

Prayers for Any Occasion

8. For our Service in St John

This prayer may be used in place of # 4 above.

God of compassion and mercy, grant that we who wear the white cross of St John as a mark of our commitment to the service of humanity, may practice the Christian virtues with grace and determination. May our lives reflect the courage and sympathy that has always marked people of compassion and may we honour the great traditions of service established by those who have gone before us. Let our hands be the hands of caring, our hearts be the hearts of kindness and our service be to the glory of God.

9. Prayers for Healing and Times of Trial (i – iii)

- (i) Grant O Christ to all those who are bearing pain your spirit of healing your spirit of peace and hope, of courage and endurance. Cast out from them all anxiety and fear; and grant them such confidence and trust, that in your light they may see light, and be given that wholeness which is yours alone. **Amen**

God of goodness and love,
hear our prayers for the sick members of our community
and for all who are in need.
amid mental and physical suffering
may they find consolation in your healing presence.
Show your mercy as
Make broken bodies whole and free downcast spirits.
May these people, close to your heart, find lasting health and
deliverance, and so join us in thanking you for all your gifts.
We ask this through the Lord Jesus
who healed those who believed. **Amen**

An evening prayer attributed to Saint Augustine:

Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ.
Rest your weary ones.
Bless your dying ones.
Soothe your suffering ones.
Pity your afflicted ones.
Shield your joyous ones.
And for all your love's sake. **Amen**

(ii) ***For those critically ill:***
God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm
and calms our anxieties and apprehensions;
Bring hope, healing and courage to **N** enduring this uncertainty.
Make **her / him / them** equal to whatever lies ahead,
with strong faith to endure whatever cannot be avoided,
Knowing that your will is for our wholeness
and we are ever held in your embrace of love. **Amen**

(iii) ***A Prayer of faith while preparing for, or reflecting after a critical incident:***
We believe that every moment of life is important to God:
 every struggle honoured,
 every pain felt
 every act of courage celebrated,
 and every small victory marked with delight.

Grant strength O Lord, to those of us who minister in your name in critical incidents. With you we have the courage to go to the edges of existence where life meets death. In saving life, or simply doing all that can and must be done, you are beside us, encouraging us to new confidence and resilience. Re-ignite our faith, and keep us hopeful, in all we do. **Amen**

10. Prayers for Peace

(i) ***Attributed to St Francis of Assisi:***
Lord make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that
I may not so much
seek to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love:

For it is in giving, that we receive;
It is in pardoning, that we are pardoned;
It is in dying that we awaken to eternal life.

* * * *

Loving God,
Lead us from death to Life,
from falsehood to Truth
from despair to Hope,
from fear to Trust
from hate to Love,
from war to Peace
Let Peace fill our heart,
Our world, our universe.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
The Prince of Peace, we pray. **Amen**

(ii) O God,
it is your will to hold both heaven and earth
in a single peace.
Let the design of your great love
shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows,
and give peace to your Church,
peace among nations,
peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. **Amen**

11. **Prayer for a New Ministry – St John Chaplain**

N, may God equip you, by his grace,
To reach out in love
Offering to St John members and their families
Insight and understanding
A glimpse of Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life.
May God grant you a wise tongue
a listening ear
a loving heart
and a sensitive spirit
So that you may lead those to whom you minister
Into a deeper awareness of Christ's love for them
and for all people
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

12. Grace at Meals (i –iii)

- (i) God our Creator, you have given us the fruits of the earth in their season. We thank you for this food now set before us, and for the skill of those who have prepared it. As we eat may we always remember those who lack the nourishment, the shelter and the fellowship we enjoy, that we may always be mindful of the needs of others. **Amen**
- (ii) Gracious God, through this time of eating together, nourish not just our bodies but also our fellowship, our life together under the white cross of St John. Bless us through our talking and listening, our serving and being served, our enjoyment of good food and good company.

Grant us through it all, a sense of the joy and privilege of being members of St John, the fulfilment of belonging, the enrichment of giving and receiving, and so may we grow closer to you and to one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**
- (iii) Life is for living, love is for giving, friends are for caring, food is for sharing. So for life, love, friends and food, and for your love to us in Jesus Christ, we give you thanks, O God. **Amen**

13. Mantle Robing Prayers⁵

Putting on the Mantle

Grant, O Lord, that as I put on this sign of faith that you will clothe me with mantle of salvation and truth in the name of the Father, and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Putting off the Mantle

O Lord, although I now lay aside this robe of faith, let me ever remember that I wear the cross of faith inwardly as well as outwardly that I may always live for the honour of your name.

14. Prayer at the Opening of Meeting or Conference

God our Creator, when you speak there is light and life, when you act there is justice and love; grant that your love may be present at our meeting⁶, so that what we say and what we do may be for the good of St John and your people. May we receive fresh encouragement in our work, catch a wider

⁵ These prayers are available on a card available from Order Matters Regional Coordinators.

⁶ Another specific occasion might be named here.

vision, and dedicate ourselves anew to the work to which you have called us. We ask this in the name of him who came to this world not to be served but to serve, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

15. Prayers at the Closing of a Meeting or Conference

- (i) Gracious God, we thank you for all who have made this meeting/conference possible – the organizers, speakers, attendees, caterers. We thank you for St John, for the rich heritage of our Order, and for the future open to us. Bless us and those we seek to serve in this **city / area / district / region** and beyond. Help us to expect the best from each other, and grant us imagination, courage and wisdom as we carry out our caring service. Grant wisdom to those in leadership as they guide St John into the future. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

- (ii) Let us pray that Christ will watch over our Members to preserve us from all harm, bless our benefactors and protect all who do the work of St John; enlighten our minds that we may maintain the honour and usefulness of the Order, 'For the Faith and For the Service of Humanity'.

16. Prayers for Departed Confrères

God of mercy, we commend to your care those who have gone before us, who have brought honour to the Order by a life of service, cheered us by their selflessness, and strengthened us by their example; keep them, we pray, in the peace of your eternal life and presence, and enfold with your love all those who mourn.

17. Prayers for St John Youth

The order of service for Youth Enrolment ceremonies is available from Youth Functional Co-ordinators in the Regions. The following prayer may be of use when Chaplains or St John members are requested to offer prayers for youth at other occasions.

Living God,
We thank you for the life and world you have entrusted to us,
for the young people of St John and all who work with them,
for their homes, and the friendships they share in their teamwork,
in learning together, and in following the way of Jesus,
our elder brother and our Friend.

Living Lord Jesus,
you teach us all, both young and old
that whatever we do for each other, we do for you
make us quick to help, and slow to hurt,
knowing that in our caring or neglecting of other people
it is as though we do it unto you.

Living Spirit of God,
You give us your strength and make us wise
may we know you as the Way, the Truth and the Life,
help us to shine with your Light
to show others your Way,
to share your Truth
and rejoice in your Life.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus our friend and brother who
taught us to pray: **Our Father in heaven...** (See above #7)

The prayers may conclude with a simple blessing or the Grace.

18. Prayers from Other Religious Traditions (i – iv)

The Pro Fide Report states that persons with many religious affiliations have an important place in the Order of St John and its avenues of caring service. The following prayers are included out of that strong conviction.

- (i) Lord of peace, be with those who guide the destinies of the world so that an end may come to boasting and vainglory, and the reign of arrogance dwindle in our time.
Give them the courage to speak the truth and the humility to listen.
Help us all to put the good of our fellow men and women above our own ambitions, and the truth which does not profit us above the lie which does.
So may we stand upright, freed from the burden of fear and the weight of suspicion, learning to trust each other.⁷

⁷ Rabbi Lionel Blue. Jewish. This, and the following prayers are taken from *Prayers for Peace*, edited by Archbishop Robert Runcie and Cardinal Basil Hume. p.55

- (ii) O God!
 Make good that which is between us,
 unite our hearts
 and guide us to paths of peace.⁸
- (iii) Everything is changing, nothing is our own.
 Not seeing clearly,
 we perpetuate the disease of the world.
 May we, living rightly,
 come to know Truth;
 That, abiding in peace,
 we may bring peace to all things.⁹
- (iv) O God
 Let us be united;
 Let us speak in harmony;
 Let our minds apprehend alike.
 Common be our prayer; common be the end of our assembly;
 Common be our resolution; common be our deliberation.
 Alike be our feelings;
 Unified be our hearts;
 Common be our intentions;
 Perfect be our unity.¹⁰

19. Blessings, Benedictions and Dismissals

Any one of the following Blessings may be used to conclude the forms of service contained in this St John Prayer Book.

- (i) Go forth into the world in peace;
 be strong and of good courage;
 hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
 strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
 help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the Lord,
 rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit¹¹,
 be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen**

⁸ Anonymous. Muslim. p.25

⁹ Anonymous. Buddhist. p.53

¹⁰ From the Vedas. Hindu p.26.

¹¹ The words 'God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life' may also be used.

- (ii) May our Lord Jesus Christ be with you to defend you,
Within you to keep you, before you to lead you,
Beside you to guard you, and above you to bless you.

God be your comfort and strength; God be your hope and support;
God be your light and your way; and the blessing of God,
Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life, remain with you
Now and forever. **Amen**
- (iii) May Christ's holy, healing, enabling Spirit be with you every step
of the way, and be your guide as your road changes and turns,
and the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life,
be with you always. **Amen**
- (iv) A Blessing from Scripture¹²
Brothers and Sisters, we wish you happiness. Try to become
perfect. Help one another. Be united. Live in peace, and the God
of love and peace will be with you. **Amen**
- (v) Ma te Atua koe e manaaki
e tiaki i nga wa katoa
e noho i roto i te aroha o te Atua;
ko te aroha hoki te mea nui. **Amine**
- (vi) The Grace (Traditional) ¹³
May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. **Amen**
or
Kororia ki te Matua, ki te Tama,
ki te Wairua Tapu;
mai I te timatanga, ki tenei wa,
a, haere ake nei. **Amine**

¹² 2 Corinthians 13:11

¹³ 2 Corinthians 13:14

20. Suggested Scripture Readings

- (i) Readings for a St John the Baptist's Day Eucharist (24 June)

The following liturgical paragraph may be read as an introduction to the service, or before the set prayers and readings below.

“John the Baptist was from a priestly family and advocated a return to the strict observance of the laws of Moses in ethical and religious standards, and baptised people as a token of their acceptance of this. John’s message was popular with many, but it brought him into conflict with Herod and the rulers of Israel, many of whom followed Gentile customs. John was executed on Herod’s orders. Jesus ministry began with his baptism by John, and many of his followers were former disciples of John.”¹⁴

St John became the patron saint of the Order since the first hospital for pilgrims was attached to the little church in Jerusalem which bore his name.

Sentence for the Day:

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came to bear witness to the light. (John 1: 6f.)

Prayer for St John's Day: # 5 (printed above)

Readings:

1st Reading: Isaiah 40: 1—11
2nd. Reading: Acts 13: 22—25
The Gospel: Luke 1: 57—66 **or** John 3: 22—30 **or** Mt. 11: 2—19

¹⁴ Liturgical Paragraph for St John the Baptist, in *For All the Saints: A Resource for the Commemorations of the Calendar*, ed. Ken Booth (The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, 1966, p.240.

(iii) Possible Readings for St John Occasional Services

Deuteronomy 6: verses 1 – 9	<i>Love the Lord your God with all your heart</i>
Psalms 139: 1 – 12	<i>Held by God's inescapable Spirit</i>
Isaiah 58: 6 – 11	<i>Attend to the needs of the afflicted.</i>
Jeremiah 1: 4 – 8	<i>The youth Jeremiah is called by God</i>
Micah 6: 6 – 8	<i>Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly</i>
Matthew 5: 1 – 10	<i>The Beatitudes</i>
Matthew 5: 13 – 16	<i>You are the light of the world</i>
Matthew 25: 31 – 40	<i>Christ incognito. The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats</i>
Luke 10: 25 – 307	<i>Who is my neighbour? The Parable of the Good Samaritan</i>
Luke 22: 24 – 27	<i>Servant leadership</i>
John 15: 1 – 15	<i>The Vine and the Branches. You are my Friends</i>
Romans 8: 35 – 39	<i>Nothing can separate us from Christ's love</i>
Romans 12: 3 – 13	<i>Diversity of gifts in one body</i>
1 Cor. 12: 4 – 20 & 27	<i>We are Christ's body, each with a different role</i>
1 Cor. 13: 1 – 13	<i>Faith, hope and love abide, but the greatest is love</i>
Ephesians 4: 7, 11 – 16	<i>Diversity of Gifts but one faith.</i>
Philippians 2: 1 – 18	<i>In your minds you must be the same as Jesus Christ</i>
Philippians 3: 8 – 14	<i>Press on towards the goal</i>
James 2: 14 – 17	<i>Faith without works is dead</i>
1 John 4: 7 – 13	<i>If we love one another God dwells in us</i>

21. Hymn for the Order of St John with Melody (conventional format)

Hymn for the Order of St John

CONNOR

Words and music © Colin Gibson (2005)



1.

From ancient pilgrim hospital
Where love met human plight,
To modern service to the sick,
Restoring health and sight,

*Beneath the banner of the Cross,
The white cross of St John,
The healing work of Christ the Lord,
Through time and change, goes on.*

2.

Bless those we serve: the young, the aged,
The injured and distressed;
Our charge, to be swift messengers
Of love made manifest.

*Beneath the banner of the Cross,
The white cross of St John,
The healing work of Christ the Lord
Must in his name go on.*

3.

Bless us who serve you day and night;
Keep us within your care,
Who go to help a wounded world
In trauma, pain and fear.

*Beneath the banner of the Cross,
The white cross of St John,
The healing work of Christ the Lord
Shall in his name go on.*

4.

We vow to you the skills we bring:
Our hands your hands must be;
Our hearts your living heart of love
For all humanity.

*Beneath the banner of the Cross,
The white cross of St John,
The healing work of Jesus Christ
We proudly carry on.*

Words: Colin Gibson (2005)

Music: Connor, Colin Gibson

Services for Particular St John Occasions

1. Prayers at a Meeting of Priory Chapter ¹⁵

Conducted by the Priory Dean or a Senior Order Member. Since this service is provided at the Chapter meeting an outline only is given here. # with number indicates that the full text is found above.

(i) Prayers at the Opening of Chapter

For Those Holding Responsibility in the Order (#2 above)

God of Grace,
Hear our prayer

For All Who Serve St John (# 4 above)

God of Grace,
Hear our prayer

For this Chapter Meeting

Holy God, when you speak there is light and life; when you act there is justice and love; grant us such a measure of your guiding Spirit, that in all we do today in our decisions and in our fellowship, your light and life, your justice and love may be expressed through us and leaven the service we render to your people in this good land.

God of Grace,
Hear our prayer

For Departed Confrères

We stand to honour those who have died:

God of mercy, we commend to your care those who have gone before us,

who have brought honour to the Order by a life of service, cheered us by their selflessness, and strengthened us by their example; keep them, we pray, in the peace of your eternal life and presence, and enfold with your love all those who mourn.

Let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, hear our prayer

All remain standing as the Registrar names those who have gone to their rest before us after which a one minute silence will be observed. Members will then be invited to resume their seats.

¹⁵ With some amendment this order of service may be suitable for other formal meetings.

(ii) **Prayers at the Closing of Priory Chapter**

Prayers may be said by the Dean commending to God the decisions and deliberations of Chapter, followed by:

Pro Fide Prayer (# 6 above)

For the Hospital in Jerusalem (# 3 above)

God of Grace,
Hear our prayer

Then follows the **Our Father...** (# 7 above)

The Dismissal

Let us pray that Christ will watch over our Members to preserve us from all harm, bless our benefactors and protect all who do the work of St John; enlighten our minds that we may study to maintain the honour and usefulness of the Order *Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum*.

All join in saying:

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.
Amen**

Dedications

In the following dedications some variation of the texts below will be necessary according to the particular circumstances and nature of the event. When there is representation from Government or Local Authorities care should be taken that forms of address follow the established conventions and protocols. The Order Matters Manual has advice for those having responsibility for these ceremonies.

It is helpful to print the text of such prayers as this will enable those present to participate fully. The order of service should be signed off by the Regional Order Matters Functional Co-ordinator and the officiating Chaplain following consultation.

2. Dedication of a St John Building

Introduction:

In the Dedication of a new St John facility the focus is not only on the physical building itself but also on those who committed themselves and their resources to make this possible. It is a reminder of the purpose for which it was built and the work that will be carried out from it.

It is recognized that this occasion brings a sense of completion, the end of a huge task. Yet it will also give new vitality to the work of St John in this area. The building is an eloquent statement of St John's vocation of caring service in this community -- a modern building housing up-to-date equipment used by well-trained personnel to serve this district and beyond.

The following is included in the text of the printed Order of Service:

The Gifting:

(Name with title)¹⁶ will address the representative who is to accept the building on behalf of the Priory in New Zealand of the Order of St John:

(Name), this complex has been provided for the **(Area)** in this Region. I ask you in your capacity as a representative of the Order of St John in New Zealand, to accept this facility on behalf of the Order.

¹⁶ See notes at end regarding correct usage regarding titles of address for all who are participating.

The Receiving

(Name, with title), representing the Order of St John places a hand on the building saying:

Ladies and Gentlemen, in the name of our Order, I take possession of this facility. I congratulate you on being able to provide **(area)** with such a facility to be used for the furtherance of the Order's work.

I now call upon the Chaplain, the Revd. **(name)**, to dedicate the building and offer prayers for the work of St John.

The Dedication

The Chaplain, lays a hand on the building and says:

Let us pray:

Either:

God our Creator, we give you thanks for the gifts of your people, and the work of many hands to create this place; accept and bless this building which we now dedicate to the purposes for which it is erected. Grant that all those who minister in and from it in the work of St John, may be supported and sustained here, and serve with integrity to the honour of our Order and the glory of your Name.
Amen

Or:

God of love and compassion, we dedicate this new facility to your glory and for the work of St John. We ask that you will bless this building, all that it holds, all who work and train in it, and all who go from it to serve in this community and beyond. May it long stand as a sign of your care and compassion for all people and bring honour to St John and to all who wear the white eight-pointed cross. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Chaplain then leads the Prayers:

For All Who Serve St John

Either Prayer # 4 printed above, or this prayer:

Eternal God, we commend to you all members of St John who will use this building as a base for service in this community. Equip each with the skills they need, dedication to develop them and sensitivity to apply them. May they know your inspiration, encouragement, insight and guidance. Work through all members whatever their role may be, filling them with gentleness and compassion, sensitivity and understanding, that in giving they may receive, and in serving others they may serve you.

God of Grace,
Hear our prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Now, in the words that Jesus taught us we pray:

Our Father in Heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in Heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and forever. **Amen**

Blessing or Dismissal

A Blessing or Dismissal such as printed above # 19 may be used.

3. Dedication of a St John Ambulance or Vehicle

Note: Mobile First Aid Units and Health Shuttles might also be dedicated, and since either the Region or the Area may be the owning entity, the wording should be amended appropriately, especially if acknowledgement of a donor is necessary.

The Gifting

(Representative of donors or fundraisers, (Name with title)¹⁷, will address the representative who is to accept the ambulance on behalf of the Priory in New Zealand of the Order of St John.

(Name), this vehicle has been provided for us as an ambulance for the (entity). I ask you in your capacity as a representative of the Order of St John in New Zealand, to accept this vehicle on behalf of the Order.

The Receiving:

(Name with title), representing the Order, places a hand on the ambulance saying:

Ladies and Gentlemen, in the name of our Order, I take possession of this ambulance. I congratulate you on being able to provide (entity) with such a vehicle, to be used to extend the work of St John to those who need our care.

I now call upon the Chaplain, the Revd. (Name) to dedicate the ambulance and offer prayers for the work of St John.

The Dedication

The Chaplain, lays a hand on the ambulance and says:

Let us pray:

Eternal God, we thank you for the provision of this ambulance and the ministry of care that it will make possible; we now dedicate it to your service. Watch over all who travel in it, the sick, the injured and those who minister to them. May the dying be comforted, and the sick speedily recover health and strength and give thanks for the care received.

¹⁷ See Notes

The following prayer may be used, or a general prayer (such as # 4 above), for those who serve in St John.

We ask your blessing on all involved in St John and its ambulance services: the ambulance officers, support and communications centre staff, mechanics and technicians- all those whose dedication and skills are vital for this service. Enthuse, equip, and strengthen them to continue their ministry of healing, support and comfort to those entrusted to their care. Grant them stamina and compassion in the harrowing and traumatic experiences they face; and in all the work of St John may your strong spirit sustain us, for Christ's sake.

Amen

Let us pray through Jesus Christ our Lord that God will give the benefactors of the Order, and all who labour to make it strong, a full reward for all their good works and keep them in eternal life.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Now, in the words that Jesus taught us we pray:

Our Father in Heaven

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in Heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours

now and forever. **Amen**

Blessing and Dismissal

See # 19 above.

4. Dedication of a St John Flag

The Flag is carried into the church furled, and escorted to the place where the Blessing will take place.

The Escort commander addresses the Chaplain:

My **Brother/Sister** in Christ ¹⁸ on behalf of the (**owning entity**), I ask you to pray for God's blessing of this Flag.

The Chaplain says:

We have come together in the presence of God to ask God's blessing on this Flag. When the Flag has been dedicated it must be treated with special care and respect for it bears the eight-pointed Cross of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. The Flag will be a constant reminder to you of your duty to honour and uphold the aims of this Christian Order, in the service of the poor, the sick and the suffering.

The Flag is unfurled and the Chaplain prays:

In the name of Jesus Christ we dedicate and set apart this flag. May it ever remind us of the mottoes of the Order of St John: For the Faith and in the Service of Humanity, and be a sign of our duty towards the Sovereign Head of the Order, and the people we are to serve; in the name of God, who is our Creator, Redeemer and Life Giver. **Amen**

The Prayer for all who serve St John and the Lord's Prayer should follow (# 4 and # 7 above).

The bearer moves forward to receive the flag, and the Chaplain says:

My **Brother/Sister**, accept on behalf of (**owning entity**); this Flag which has now been dedicated. Remember the purpose for which it has been blessed, the service of which it is a symbol, and the honour in which it is to be held.

The Blessing

One of the Blessings may then be pronounced.¹⁹

The Flag is then returned to the flag bearer.

¹⁸ Some will prefer to be addressed simply as Chaplain

¹⁹ See # 18 above.

5. Laying Up of a St John Flag

This service will take place in the receiving church and will require consultation with the priest or minister in charge. It is preferable that the ceremony takes place during a regular Sunday service with the Address on the day to be on St John - its history, and present day activities. Consideration might be given to using St Matthew 5: 1-10 as a reading in the service.

The organisation of the service should include seating for St John members, and a procession of senior Order Members if appropriate.

If convenient, following the Address the Colour Party carries the Colours to where the flag will be handed to the St John Chaplain.

The Chaplain addresses the Minister or representative of the church where the flag will be laid-up:

My **Brother/Sister**, on behalf of the (**owning entity**), I ask you to lay-up this Flag in this (**church**).

This Flag has been dedicated to the glory of God and is to be treated with care and reverence. It bears the eight-pointed cross of the Order of St John, a Christian organisation whose care of the sick and the poor extends over nine hundred years.

The four arms of the cross symbolize the Christian virtues of prudence, temperance, justice and fortitude; its eight points represent the eight beatitudes which Christ promises to his disciples; and its whiteness is the emblem of the purity of life required of us who proclaim the Christian faith and serve the sick and suffering in our community.

Receive on behalf of St John, into your special care, this Flag. We ask that you remember the purpose for which this Flag was blessed, the cause of which it is a symbol, and the honour in which it is held.

My Brother/Sister: the Flag.

The St John Chaplain hands the flag to the Minister or church representative, who then responds:

I accept this Flag to be laid-up in this Church. May it ever remind those who enter this house of prayer of the mottoes of the Order of St John: "*For the Faith and in the Service of Humanity*", and that, as Christians, we are all called to the loving service of others.

Let us pray

Lord God, as this symbol of loving Christian service is laid-up in this Church, guide and strengthen all who serve by seeking to relieve the suffering of the sick and injured: for those who staff our ambulances and render comfort and care to people in crisis and distress; those who support and encourage the aged and infirm; those who offer and receive training for first aid in our communities; those who enlarge the vision of our young to discover the joys and fellowship of service; and for all those whose dedicated service, and generosity of support builds firm foundations for such care; give insight, patience and compassion to all who serve through St John, thanksgiving for its strong tradition, and shield them from every kind of harm.

The representative places the Flag in the stand and the Colour Party retires.

The church service continues...

Acknowledgements and Sources

The prayers in this collection come from many sources. Some have been written specifically to meet the needs of St John, while others have been adapted over time from prayers in denominational collections. It has not been possible to trace the provenance of some prayers, nor to ensure whether these are drawn from copyright material. If the compilers have inadvertently infringed any copyright sincere apologies are offered and any omissions notified will be rectified in future editions.

Copyright material taken from '*A New Zealand Prayer Book - He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa*' (1989) published by the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, is used with permission. Minor amendments are made to conform to the St John context.

The St John Hymn "*From ancient pilgrim hospital...*" printed above was commissioned by Priory Chapter and both lyric and score are the work of Professor Colin Gibson, and first sung in 2006.

Notes for Those Officiating

Correct forms of address should be used at St John occasions – guidance is available in the Order Matters Manual for situations where state or civic leaders are present.

Clergy: Proper usage for clergy is either e.g. (a) The Reverend Jane or Jim Bloggs, or (b) the Reverend Fr / Mr / or Mrs or Dr Bloggs (but not the Reverend Bloggs). The preference is to use the Christian name with surname in such formal or written forms of address. In spoken address, "Chaplain" (or "Confrère" for an Order member) is quite appropriate.

Sacramental Liturgies have not been included as it is considered that Chaplains will seldom be called upon to use such forms and will wish on occasions in which they are appropriate to draw upon their denominational rites. Should a pattern for anointing or Laying on of Hands for healing be sought, a pattern is provided in *A New Zealand Prayer Book / he Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa* p.743. Should it be thought necessary to hold a service to cleanse a place or vehicle from disturbing associations following a death or traumatic incident a form of service is available from the Order Matters Director, or from the Priory Dean.

Liturgical Dress: How a chaplain should dress depends on the occasion. If the event is an Order occasion, then the Chaplain should be vested. More guidance on this subject is available in the Chaplaincy Handbook.

Printed Orders of Service: Service pamphlets should follow the prescribed branding format on the title page, and should also bear the twin mottoes of the Order of St John in Latin and English (as shown on the title page of this *Prayer Book*). In the reproduction of printed orders of service care should be taken not to breach international copyright conventions for any content. Acknowledgement should be made of sources whenever possible.

Other Resources

1. A Brief History of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem

Nine Centuries of History

A little over nine hundred years ago, about 1080, the Abbey of St. Mary in Jerusalem set up a small hospital to care for sick pilgrims. The hospital was attached to a little church dedicated to St. John the Baptist. When the first Crusade took Jerusalem in 1099, the hospital was probably being run for the abbey by one of its monks called Gerard. It quickly benefited from many gifts of property in Europe as well as in the east and in 1113 Pope Paschal II recognized it as an independent order of the church, the Order of the Hospital of St John in Jerusalem. These Benedictine "Hospitallers", both brothers and sisters, took the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and aimed to care for "our lords the poor and the sick."

The Brothers of St. John later developed a military role to serve as guards for the hospital and act as escorts for pilgrims. By the middle of the twelfth century, the Order of St. John was a military religious order whose members vowed to care for the sick as well as defend the Christian faith.

The Order of St. John flourished across Europe. In about 1140, its Knights in Britain built their headquarters in Clerkenwell, London. The Order continued to prosper in Britain until Henry VIII's time when he confiscated all the lands and property that had been donated to them over the years, and dissolved all the religious orders and foundations including the Order of St John.

The Order of St. John of Jerusalem continued in Catholic Europe, although it faced a difficult period after the loss of its headquarters on Malta in 1798. In the wake of that disaster some members of the Order decided on their own initiative to revive its British branch. This was not accepted by the head of the order in Italy, but the British organization survived and its members determined finally that the Hospitaller tradition of caring for the sick should return to England. So in 1877 they founded the St. John Ambulance Association.

At this time Britain was at the height of the industrial revolution. Work was often unpleasant and dangerous, accidents frequent - and no one was trained to give treatment. St. John Ambulance ran classes on First Aid, published books and other material and set examinations for First Aid certificates. The need for equipment was met by establishing a stores depot at the medieval St. John's Gate, which by then had been acquired once again for the Order as its Headquarters. It continues today as the home of the Order's international Secretariat.

Before long thousands of people had received their First Aid certificates and many of them wanted to use their training to help the public. At first they got together in groups called Ambulance Corps, then in 1887, the St. John Ambulance Brigade was formed. Its aim was to provide a service of First Aid and ambulance transport at public events. Members attended 'wherever crowds gathered' from great national occasions to local football matches. (Later, the Brigade and Association merged as "St. John Ambulance".)

In 1882, the British Order acquired land in Jerusalem to set up an Eye Hospital, which has been operating ever since. In 1888, in recognition of its work, Queen Victoria made the British Order of St. John a Royal Order of Chivalry with the title 'The Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem'. (King George V, an enthusiastic supporter, added "Most" to the formal title.)

The Order soon spread throughout the then British Empire. Before long, there were largely autonomous branches in a number of places. Soon after, the end of World War II, the status of separate Priory had been conferred on St. John in Scotland, Wales, South Africa, New Zealand, Canada and Australia. They were joined by the United States in 1996.

In October 1999, as part of major constitutional changes in the Order, the Priory of England and The Islands was created to take its place alongside the other seven. The representatives of these 8 Priories now sit together with the 5 Great Officers, in the Grand Council of the Order. There are also branches in some 30 other Commonwealth centres, run by St John Associations.

The International Secretariat came into existence in October 1999 to service the Grand Council; and to act as a link between the eight Priories and the St John Associations, as well as with the Foundation for the Jerusalem Eye Hospital.

www.orderofstjohn.org

2. The 12th Century Hospital of St John

The Jerusalem hospital, built by the Order of St. John in the 12th century, was one of the first great medieval hospitals and the way it was run had a huge influence on the development of others.

In that enormous 2,000-bed hospital, the "sick poor" received nursing care which might surprise 21st century patients.

... there were separate beds for the sick at a time when only the grandest lords had their own beds ... the beds had feather mattresses and coverlets and the patients were provided with cloaks and sandals, so as to protect them when they went to the latrines ... every Monday and Thursday barbers employed by the Order washed the feet of the sick with hot water, removed hard flesh with pumice stones and dried their feet with soft towels.

From 'The Hospitallers' by Prof. J Riley-Smith

The main Order hospital was always at its headquarters and there were smaller ones, usually along pilgrim routes. Each hospital was run by a knight and nursing the sick was part of the duty of all knights. Given the crusading warrior role of the Hospitallers, it is perhaps unexpected that people of all religions were treated...

...knowing that the Lord, who calls all to salvation, does not want anyone to perish, the hospital mercifully admits men of the Muslim faith and Jews...

Much of the Hospitallers' medical work in the middle ages is unexpectedly close to trends in modern health care. They believed the quality of nursing care was the key to recovery in most cases, used surgery only as a last resort, had an excellent knowledge of natural and herbal medicines and understood the significance of hygiene, tranquility and isolation.

Further Reading:

J. Riley-Smith, Hospitallers. The History of the Order of St John. (London, 1999)

3. The Amalfi Cross and its Meaning

The Italian republic of Amalfi was the principal European city trading with Palestine in the 11th century. Its merchants had secured the establishment of the Benedictine Abbey of St Mary of the Latins in Jerusalem to provide hospitality to Christian pilgrims. Attached to the Abbey was the Church of St John.

Amalfi's symbol, a white eight-pointed cross, and the name "St John" together represent the full history and heritage of St John - 900 years of commitment to serve humanity through Hospitaller and other charitable works.

What the Cross means

The four arms of the modern white cross that represents the Order of St John symbolise the cardinal virtues:

- Prudence
- Justice
- Temperance
- Fortitude

In St John tradition the points of the Cross represent the eight Beatitudes (Matthew 5) which spring from the practice of those virtues, namely:

- humility
- sorrow for sin
- meekness
- thirst for righteousness
- mercy
- purity
- peace; and
- suffering under persecution.

The Whiteness of the Cross reminds us of the purity of life required of Christ's servants and the Badge which is worn by members is an outward sign of duty to honour and uphold the aims of this Christian Order, in the service of the poor, the sick, and the suffering.

Other Symbols: the lions and unicorns are the supporters of the Royal Arms granted by the British Crown, and indicate that St John is a Royal Order of Chivalry. An Order of Chivalry is best described as a group of people sworn by a set of rules to provide the Christian care of the sick and the poor.

4. St John in New Zealand

St John was established in New Zealand at a public meeting in Christchurch on 30 April 1885, at St Mary's Church, Merivale. Though that meeting was initiated by the Anglican Vicar, the Revd Thomas Flavell, and Dean Jacobs was on the first Committee, the non-denominational character of the St John Association was emphasised and the Revd Father Ginaty served on the Committee. Later the same year a Centre in Wellington was also established.

The first Division in New Zealand of the St John Ambulance Brigade was formed in Dunedin in December 1892.

In 1927, the Brigade formed a Cadet Section in Wanganui to train young people in the skills of first aid and health care, as well as encouraging life skills and good citizenship.

A Commandery of the Order was formed in New Zealand in 1931 and was raised to the status of a Priory in 1946, which allowed for a large degree of autonomy but within the framework of Royal Charters, Statutes and Regulations of the Order.

St John remains a large charitable organisation serving communities throughout New Zealand by providing an extensive range of services and products in the health and health-related fields.

The Prior (by convention the Governor-General) is supreme head of the Order in New Zealand, executive responsibility being delegated to the Chancellor, through the Priory Chapter and the Priory Trust Board.

The Chief Executive has overall responsibility to the Priory Trust Board for the operation of St John in New Zealand. St John's strategic and operating goals are achieved through a management structure reporting to the Chief Executive, who is responsible for prescribing the services and products that will be delivered. The five Regions are responsible for the actual delivery of services and products.

The Functional Activity Areas are:

Operations	Clinical Standards
Education	Human Resources & Quality
Health Services	Corporate Services
Youth	Community Care
Order Matters	Marketing & Communications
Communication Centres	

Delegated to deliver the services and products are the five St John Regions:

North Island: Northern, Midland and Central

South Island: Northern Region South Island, and Southern

Each Region in turn is responsible for a number of St John Local Committees of which there are about 140 in total. Area Committees provide the vital community interface – and frontline delivery in many instances.

www.stjohn.org.nz

Further Reading:

Graeme Hunt, *First to Care: 125 Years of the Order of St John in New Zealand 1885 – 2010*, (Wellington: St John, 2009)

R. E. Wright-St Clair, KStJ, (Editor), *St John in New Zealand. A History of the Most Venerable Order* (Wellington, 1985)

G. W. Rice: *St John in Christchurch, 1885—1987. A History of the St John Ambulance Association and Brigade in Christchurch, New Zealand.* (1994)

5. The Christian Significance of ‘Our lords the poor and the sick’

The twin values of the motto **Pro Fide** and **Pro Utilitate Hominum** (*For the Faith and In the Service of Humanity*) encapsulate the identity and mission of St John. Together they emphasize the integral connection between faith and action. As the *Pro Fide Report (2005)* points out, admission to the Order is to be understood as taking one’s place in a community that is dedicated to the service of the sick and the poor in obedience to the divine law of love. The designation of our lay order of chivalry as “*this Christian Order*” is based on the earliest tenets of the Hospitallers who embraced the phrase the “lordship of the poor and the sick” as expressing their Christian discipleship and service, i.e. following the example of Jesus who said “I am among you as one who serves.”

The special tenet of the “lordship of the poor and the sick” is an ancient phrase as old as the Order itself. What does it mean? To care for the “neighbour” or the needy is to express love for God – even to meet God through that action. Christian faith teaches that God’s life is diffused through human life. To care for the needy is to care for Christ himself. (See St Matthew chapter 25:31-40.).

In the medieval Order of St John the feudal social hierarchy was turned upside down – for the Brothers spoke of “our lords the sick and the poor”. They paid the homage of service not to the aristocratic feudal lord but to the poor and lowly. Need, not social status, was primary. The “lords” in the eyes of the Brothers were not those of power and authority, but the “holy poor.”

The Rule of the Order, dating from about 1130, enjoined humility on the part of the Brothers, regarding themselves as the serfs of the needy poor, “and it would be wrong and improper for the serf to be proud and his lord humble.” This reversal of the power relationship of the feudal social structure anticipated the respect for poverty exemplified by St Francis of Assisi a century later. It incorporates succinctly the theology of St Matthew chapter 25, for “our lords the sick and the poor” are “the least of these my brethren” and to serve them is to serve Christ himself.

Based on a paper, *Pro Fide In Perspective. The Meaning and Relevance of our Motto Today*, by the Priory Dean (2005).

The cover illustration

Alms-giving by the Brothers of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. From Caoursin’s Statutes (about 1482). St John the Almsgiver may have been the first patron saint of the Order, but soon St John the Baptist was established as the patron saint of the Hospital.

Illustration: Courtesy of the Order of St John