

The Making of Profession in First Vows

Br James Andrew ssf



The Feast of St Michael & All Angels

29th September, 2008

St Philip's Anglican Church, Annerley, Qld

The Society of St Francis
Australian and New Zealand Province
www.franciscan.org.au
www.franciscan.org.nz

Lord speak to reassure me,
to chasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
true guardian of my soul.

Lord, let me see your footmarks
and in them plan my own;
that I may follow boldly
and in your strength alone;
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my friend.

Words: John Ernest Bode
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DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
All In the name of Christ. Amen.

A reading from 'The Remembrance of the Desire of a Soul' by Thomas of Celano.

Saint Francis venerated the angels with the greatest affection, for they are with us in battle, and walk with us in the midst of the shadow of death. He said that such companions should be revered everywhere, and invoked as protectors. He taught that their gaze should not be offended, and no one should presume to do in their sight what he would not do in the sight of others. And since in choir one sings the psalms in the presence of the angels, he wanted all who were able to gather in the oratory and sing psalms wisely.

He often said the Blessed Michael should be especially honoured because his duty is presenting souls to God. In honour of Saint Michael he would fast with great devotion for forty days between the Feast of the Assumption and St. Michael's feast day. For he used to say, 'Each person should offer God some special praise or gift in honour of such a great prince.'

Introit Hymn

You Holy Angels Bright

**You holy angels bright,
who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light
fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song,
or else the theme
too high will seem
for mortal tongue.**

**You blessed souls at rest,
who ran this earthly race,
and now, from sin released,
behold the Saviour's face,
his praises sound,
as in his sight
you now delight
to see him crowned.**

**You saints who toil below,
adore your heavenly King,
and onward as you go
some joyful anthem sing;
take what he gives
and praise him still
through good and ill,
who ever lives.**

**All nations of the earth,
extol the world's great King:
with melody and mirth
God's glorious praises sing.
In him rejoice,
and there proclaim
his holy name
with sounding voice.**

**My soul, take now your part:
triumph in God above,
and with a well-tuned heart
sing out the songs of love;
and all my days
let no distress
nor fears suppress
his joyful praise.**

Words: Richard Baxter and John Gurney
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Presider God of the nations,
we thank you for nourishing us with this holy sacrament.
Guide us by your presence,
that we may bring your light to those who dwell in darkness,
and establish your justice in the earth.

Most loving God
**All you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your spirit.**

The Blessing

Presider God of this ancient land, through baptism you have given us an inheritance into one family, give us grace to walk together in the unity of Christ Jesus; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Recessional Hymn *O Jesus I have promised*

**All O Jesus I have promised
to serve you to the end;
Lord be for ever near me,
my master and my friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander far from the pathway
if you will be my guide.**

**Still let me feel you near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
and tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw me nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.**

**O let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;**

[communicant members of all Churches are welcome to receive]

Communion Hymn *Just as I am*

All

Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you would my Saviour be,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come,

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind -
sight, riches, healing of mind,
yes, all I need, in you to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, you will receive,
will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because your promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am—your love unknown
had broken every barrier down
now to be yours, and yours alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth and height to prove,
here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Words: Charlotte Elliot
Tune: Willaim Batchelder Bradbury
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WELCOME

Br Donald Campbell, *Guardian*

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Presider Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All **Blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever.**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
All **And also with you.**

Presider **Sentence of the Day**
And all the angels sang, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving
and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Confession

Deacon Let us pray

All **Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

All [Sung] **Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy**

Deacon 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your
God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with
all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a
second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Deacon We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses

Let us then run our race, laying aside every weight and bringing our sins to the Lord in penitence and faith.

All **Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent and are sorry for all our sins.
Father forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Presider **Absolution**

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

All **Hymn of Praise, Gloria in Excelsis**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the Glory of God the Father. Amen.**

holy and acceptable in your sight.
Through Christ, receive this our duty and service,
and grant that we who eat and drink these holy gifts
may, by your Holy Spirit,
be one body in Christ,
and serve you in unity and peace.

In your grace and mercy,
bring us to the joy of your eternal kingdom
with all the company of the redeemed.
May we praise you in union with them,
and give you glory through your Son, Jesus Christ.
Through him, with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father eternal,
in songs of never—ending praise:

All [Sung] **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours forever and ever. Amen.**

Presider
All **As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,
Our Father in Heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is 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.**

Presider We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
All **for we all share in the one bread.**

All [Sung] **O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us your peace.**

Presider The gifts of God for the people of God
Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ
in remembrance that he died for us,
and feed on him in our hearts
by faith and thanksgiving.

Presider Holy and gracious God,
all creation rightly gives you praise.
All life, all holiness, come from you
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
whom you sent to share our human nature,
to live and die as one of us,
to reconcile us to you,
the God and Father of all.
Hear us, merciful Lord;
through Christ accept our sacrifice of praise;
and, by the power of your Word and Holy Spirit,
sanctify this bread and wine,
that we who share in this holy sacrament
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.
Who, when his hour had come,
on the night before he went up to the cross
to make full atonement for the sins of the world,
offering once for all his one sacrifice of himself,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying,
'Take, eat:
this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.'
In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying,
'Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.'

All [Sung] **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Presider Therefore, in obedience to his command,
we commemorate and celebrate
his saving passion and death,
his mighty resurrection and ascension in to heaven
and we eagerly await his coming again in glory.
We thank you that by your grace alone
you have accepted us in Christ;
and here we offer you a spiritual sacrifice,

Presider **Collect for the Feast of St Michael and All Angels**

Everlasting God,
you have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order
the ministries of angels and mortals:
mercifully grant that, as your holy angels serve and worship you in heaven,
so by your appointment they may help and defend us here on earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

OT Reading Genesis 28:10-17

Reader 1 A reading from the Book of Genesis, chapter 28 commencing at verse 10

Jacob left Beer-sheeba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up from the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it". And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place. This is none other than the house of God, and this the gate of heaven."

All This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 138

Alleluia 17

Cantor

Al-le-lu - ia.

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu - ia!

Cantor Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

Cantor I will give thanks to you O Lord with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.
For you have glorified your name
and your word above all things. Alleluia
All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

Cantor All the kings of the earth will praise you O Lord,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.
They will sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord. Alleluia.
All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

Cantor Though I walk in the midst of trouble you keep me safe;
your right hand shall save me.
The Lord will make good his purpose for me;
O Lord your love endures forever. Alleluia.
All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of the Kingdom.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Presider The Lord be with you!
All **And also you!**

Presider Lift up your hearts!
All **We lift them to the Lord!**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!
All **It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

Presider All glory and honour, thanks and praise,
be yours now and always;
Lord of every time and place,
God beyond our dreaming.
We give you thanks that from the beginning of time,
your spirit has brooded over this ancient land.
In the fullness of time you revealed your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.
By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.
We give you thanks that in him
you have revealed to us your presence
in the vastness of this land,
your love in its fruitfulness, and
your purpose in its cycles of death and renewed life.

Therefore with angel and archangels,
with St Michael, St Francis, St Clare and St Philip
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
forever praising you and singing:

All [Sung] **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Minister May Christ receive you among his faithful servants.

Brothers **As we receive you into our fellowship
and are united with you in bonds of the love
in this earthly life,
so may we, at the last, by mercy of God,
be joined together
with all his faithful people in heaven.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Minister Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

All **We meet in his name and share his peace.**

Minister The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn *Let all the islands rise and sing*

All **Let all the islands rise and sing,
And to our God their praises bring;
On strings and drums his might proclaim,
To shout the glory of his name.**

**We praise him for the ocean vast,
With throbbing reef and coral shore,
for fish and shell and mighty whale,
For all his gifts our thanks we pour.**

**And when we see the stars at night,
The many worlds which cross the sky,
The son and moon which give us light,
We lift our hearts to God on high.**

**The children playing on the shore,
The sounds of laughter which we hear,
Their love increasing more and more,
Remind us that our God is near.**

**The palms which bend towards the sky,
The clouds which hurry to and fro,
The birds which fly both low and high,
Give joy to men on earth below.**

**To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, praise be done:
May Christ the Lord upon us pour
The Spirit's gift for evermore.**

Reader 2

New Testament Reading Revelation 12:7-12a

A Reading from the Book of Revelation to St John the Divine, chapter 12 beginning at verse 7

And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the world—he was thrown down to earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming,

“Now have come the salvation and the
power
and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Messiah,
for the accuser of our comrades has
been thrown down
who accuses them day and night before
our God
But they have conquered him by the blood
of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony,
for they did not cling to life even in the face
of death.
Rejoice then, you heavens
and those who dwell in them!”

This is the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn *The Lord's Goodness*

**Sing of the Lord's goodness, Father of all wisdom,
come to him and bless his name.**

**Mercy he has shown us, his love is for ever,
faithful to the end of days.**

Refrain: ***Come then, all you nations, sing of your Lord's goodness,
melodies of praise and thanks to God.
Ring out the Lord's glory, praise him with your music,
worship him and bless his name.***

**Power he has wielded, honour is his garment,
risen from the snares of death.
His word he has spoken, one bread he has broken,
new life he now gives to all. Refrain**

**Courage in hour darkness, comfort in our sorrow,
Spirit of our God most high;
solace for the weary, pardon for the sinner,
splendour of the living God. Refrain**

**Praise him with your singing, praise him with the trumpet,
praise God with the lute and harp,
praise him with the cymbals, praise him with your dancing,
praise God till the end of days. Refrain.**

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The Gospel Acclamation

**All Alle– alle– alle- luia, Alle– alle– alle- luia,
Alle– alle– alle- luia, Alle-luia, A-lle-lu-ua**

Deacon Jesus, you are the Son of God,
you are the King of Israel

**All Alle– alle– alle- luia, Alle– alle– alle- luia,
Alle– alle– alle- luia, Alle-luia, A-lle-lu-ua**

The Gospel

Deacon A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to St John,
Chapter 1 commencing at verse 47.

All Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said to him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit". Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Deacon This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

in times of temptation and weakness
and help him to preserve
in the way of discipline and love.

Holy Spirit of God,
you inspire us with truth and love:
give to our brother
a love of the Gospel,
a readiness to obey your word,
a delight in your wisdom
and an acceptance of your providence;
may the blessing of your grace
encourage him to grow in truth,
and grant that,
being bound to you and united with
his brothers and sisters in love,
he may preserve in the vows he has made
and share in that eternal life
which is your gift to us.
Blessed Trinity,
hold us all firm in our faith
that we may know you in all ways
and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,
who are three Persons in one God,
now and forever.

All Amen.

The newly professed kneel and the Minister shall say:

May our blessed Lady pray for you.
May Saint Francis, who bore the marks
of the Lord Jesus, pray for you.
May Saint Clare pray for you.
May all the saints of the three Orders pray for you.
May the Holy angels befriend you
and watch around you to protect you.
And I will pronounce upon you the blessing
which our holy father, Francis,
gave to Brother Leo, his companion:
The Lord + bless you and watch over you,
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you,
the Lord look kindly on you
and give you peace.
Brother James Andrew, the Lord bless you.

All Amen.

Lord God,
who allowed your Son, our Redeemer,
to be bound by the hands of the sinful:
+ bless this rope
and grant that we your servants
may always be mindful of the bonds
of our Lord Jesus Christ
who came to set us free.
May James Andrew preserve in the life
that he has now undertaken
and remember that he is bound
to live by your commandments;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

All **Amen**

Minister From now on, call nothing your own.
As you are bound to Christ,
so in him you are set free.

The Prayers and Blessing of the Professed

Minister Let us praise God

Minister Let us pray for our brother James Andrew

Heavenly father,
you created all things and renewed them
in the mystery of your Son:
grant that our brother,
consecrated to your service
by water and the Holy Spirit
and who has resolved to share
more closely in your redeeming work
by following in the way
of our blessed father, Francis
may always rejoice in that new life
which is your creation in righteousness
and true holiness.

Lord Jesus Christ
you alone are the one
by whom we come to the Father:
strengthen our brother

The Sermon

Br William

Jisas yu holem hand blong mi

All **Jisas yu holem hand blong mi
yu takem hand blong mi
nao bae mi cry out
for yu... Uh...
Mi no findem any good someting
long dis fala world
nao bae mi cryout for yu. Uh...**

Chorus

**Jisas mi come long yu now. Uh...
Yu takem mi dis taem. uh...
Lord Jisas mi come long yu now. Uh...
yu takem mi dis taem.**

**Papa mi talk tangio long yu
for sendem son blong yu
for die for sins blong mi.
Waswe yu reedy for hem
bae bae hem mi come
make tu taem more Uh...**

Solomon Islands Traditional

THE MAKING OF PROFESSION IN FIRST VOWS

The Presentation

Br Alfred BoonKong, *Minister Provincial*; Br Bruce-Paul, *Novice Guardian*

Novice Guardian Br Alfred BoonKong, I bring to you this novice, asking you to admit him to profession in the First Order of the Society of St Francis.

Minister My brothers, Br James Andrew has been elected to profession in first vows by the Provincial Chapter. Is it your will that he should be now professed?

Brothers **It is, thanks be to God**

The Declaration

Minister My brother, what do you ask?

Candidate I ask for God's blessing and to make my profession in the First Order of the Society of St Francis, that I may serve God in this community all my life, if it be his will for me.

Minister Do you ask this of your own free will?

Candidate I do.

Minister Have you studied the Rule and considered what is required of those who give themselves to God in community and the meaning of the vows you are about to take?

Candidate I have.

Minister Do you promise to be obedient to our Rule and those in authority in our community?

Candidate I do, trusting in the help of God.

The Invocation

Minister Let us ask for the grace of the Holy Spirit for our brother James Andrew
(*a period of silence is kept*)

The Profession of Vows

Minister My brother
in baptism, by water and the Holy Spirit,
you were consecrated to God's service.
Now, by God's grace
and in response to his call,
are you resolved to strengthen
that commitment by the profession
of vows in this community?

Candidate I am, trusting in the help of Christ.

Minister James Andrew, are you willing to live with your brothers and sisters in simplicity of life and openness of heart, sharing both material and spiritual gifts in detachment without personal ownership, according to the spirit of Saint Francis and in the poverty of Christ?

Candidate I am, trusting in the help of Christ.

Minister Are you willing to give yourself in undivided love to Christ, in celibacy for sake of the Kingdom of God and in his love for all, according to the spirit of Saint Francis and in the Chastity of Christ?

Candidate I am, trusting in the help of Christ.

Minister Are you willing to follow the will of God, whose service is perfect freedom, living in obedience with your brothers and sisters, in good days and bad, in suffering and joy, according to the spirit of Saint Francis and in the obedience of Christ?

Candidate I am, trusting in the help of Christ.

Brothers **May almighty God, who has given you the will to undertake all these things, give you also the strength to perform them, that he may complete the work which he has begun in you.**

Minister I now call upon you to make your profession.

Candidate I, brother James Andrew
here in the sight of the holy angels
and in all the company of heaven,
and in the presence of this congregation,
dedicate myself to the service of our Lord Jesus Christ,
within the First Order of the Society of St Francis,
following the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience, and I now take upon me the three—fold vows, according to the constitution of this community, God being my helper.

Minister Be faithful to Christ
and God will bless you
and give you eternal life.

The Giving of the Rope

Minister The Lord be with you
All **And also with you**

Minister Our help is in the name of the Lord
All **Who made heaven and earth**

Let us pray