

THE DE-COMMISSIONING OF A CHURCH, CHAPEL OR ORATORY

Words to be said are in this style: **All:** say these words.

Instructions are in italics.

This service is not intended to be a celebration, rather a blessing on the building, space, or room once the altar and altarware is removed in preparation for the new use. The altar and altarware remains consecrated and will be re-dedicated in its new church or oratory using the Blessing of Altarware service.

A case, or suitable container should be used to place the altarware and vestments which will carry them away from this site to their new home. Holy Water should be ready.

A single candle is lit; a tea-light in glass holder is to be preferred. This is to remain in the room throughout this service until the exit procession.

The Exorcism of the Transit Cases

The priest sprinkles Holy Water on each case saying:

Priest: In the name of the Most High God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, do I bless and consecrate these containers which will carry like an Ark, these vestments and altarware, to their new place of worship.

All: Amen

The items are removed from their places, and put carefully in the containers - wrapped for protection as necessary, whilst the onlookers recite psalm 61.

All: [say Psalm 61]

Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer. From the end of the earth I will cry to You,
When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

For You have been a shelter for me, A strong tower from the enemy.

I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your wings.

For You, O God, have heard my vows; You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name.

You will prolong the king's life, His years as many generations.

He shall abide before God forever. Oh, prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him!

So I will sing praise to Your name forever, That I may daily perform my vows.

Priest: As You protected and guided the commandments given to Moses, so O Lord Most High, protect and guide these items in the wilderness and bring them safe to their new place of use.

All: Amen

The vestments and altarware are taken from the building.

Blessing the space for its new use

The priest blesses each wall, north, south, east and west with the sign of the cross and says:

Priest: Continue to be blessed by the prayers and sacrament that has been offered in this place.

All: Amen

The priest blesses each door and window with the sign of the cross and says:

Priest: Continue to be blessed by the prayers and sacrament that has been offered in this place.

All: Amen

The priest blesses the floor and ceiling with the sign of the cross and says:

Priest: Continue to be blessed by the prayers and sacrament that has been offered in this place.

All: Amen

Priest: This space is no longer used by us for worship, but may the fragrance of the Holy Spirit continue in this place, and may the memories of those who worshipped here continue in their hearts and minds as [Name of Church].

All: Amen

All present leave the building except the priest, who then carries the burning candle out of the building in silence.

Service Ends.