Prayer Service for World Day of the Sick
February 11th 2010

Reflection Space
Using coloured cloths e.g. green, yellow, that denote warmth and healing as a background, place some symbols of healing and illness. The symbols used could be a bottle (large), used for medicine or pills; a bowl and towel; a child’s teddy with a bandage; grapes and 7UP; an image of Jesus healing someone or of the Pieta, Mary holding the body of her Son; a crutch; a young plant.....in the centre of your display, place a large candle to symbolise Christ’s presence with us in all these stages of illness and healing.

Music Suggestions
Calm me, Lord  Margaret Rizza  Canaimís 34
Christ be our Light  Bernadette Farrell  Canaimís 111
Come to me all who labour  Gregory Norbert  Canaimís 46
Father in my life I see  Frank Anderson  Canaimís 56
Lay your hands  Carey Landry  Canaimís 102
Lord of all hopefulness  Jan Struher  Canaimís 114
O God you search me  Bernadette Farrell  Canaimís 133
The Cloud’s Veil  Liam Lawton  Canaimís 53
The Lord’s my Shepherd  Scottish Psalter  Canaimís 188

Gathering Rite
Introduction
Each year the church community gather to celebrate the World Day of the Sick on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. For anyone who has ever been to Lourdes, you will know that it is a place of hope and of healing, an experience that encourages and sustains those who are ill and all those who love them and care for them. We gather today, because we are ill and are seeking the sacrament of the sick; or as carers or family members, we wish to support our loved ones; or as members of the community to join in prayerful support. As we gather today to pray with and for all those who are suffering from sickness and illness in our community, we are invited, each one of us, to play a role in offering hope and courage to one another.....
**Blessing of Water:** (sprinkling of the congregation)

Priest: Dear friends,
this water will be used to remind us of our baptism.
Let us ask God to bless it
and to keep us faithful
to the Spirit he has given us.
Lord God almighty, creator of all life, of body and soul
we ask you to bless + this water;
as we use it in faith,
for save our sins
and save us from all illness
and the power of evil.

Lord in your mercy,
give us living water,
always springing up as a fountain of salvation;
free us, body and soul from every danger,
and admit us into your presence in purity of heart.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

**Opening Prayer**

Priest: All-powerful and ever-living God the lasting health of all who believe in you,
hear us as we ask your loving help for the sick;
restore their health, that they may again offer joyful thanks in your Church.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

**Liturgy of the Word**

**First Reading** 
*James 5: 13 - 15*

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

The Word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm** 
*Psalm 23*

Response: *He leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. R/
He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**Gospel**  
*Luke 5:12-16*
While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him.
Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."
Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Homily Notes**
*In the gospel, Jesus is approached by a man who is suffering from leprosy. Not only is the man ill, but he is also cast out from his own people and community because of his illness. Jesus restores the man to health, but he also restores him to his community, by telling him to go to the priest. Often when people become ill, they find themselves lonely and somehow on the margins of life...perhaps they are away from their own homes and families, away in hospitals or care homes. Each of us is invited to remember those who are ill and to keep them at the centre of our communities....the mark of us as Christians is that we care for those who are ill and infirm, and we ensure that they are not marginalised by their illness.*

*At the Last Supper, before returning to the Father, Jesus knelt to wash the apostles' feet, anticipating the supreme act of love on the Cross. With this act he invited his disciples to enter into the same logic of love that is given especially to the lowliest and to the needy (cf. Jn 13: 12-17). Following Jesus’ example, every Christian is called to relive, in different and ever new contexts, that way of love and care.*

**Prayer of the Faithful**
Presider: The people who were sick came to Jesus seeking healing.
We bring our needs to him now:
Reader: For all who are sick.........................*Lord hear us*
Reader: For all who are suffering....................... *Lord hear us*
Reader: For all who care for those who are sick or in need........................ *Lord hear us*
Reader: For those who are dying............................. *Lord hear us*
Reader: For those who have died............................ *Lord hear us*
Reader: For our own intentions................................. *Lord hear us*

Presider: God our Father, we offer you our needs...calm us and help us to be caring of one another. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen

*Laying of Hands*
*In silence, the priest(s) lays his hands on the head of each of the sick people*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Oil*
Presider: Praise to you, God our Father
you sent your Son to live among us and bring us salvation
All: Blessed be God who heals us in Christ
Priest: Praise to you, Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself to share in our humanity and you heal our infirmities
All: Blessed be God who heals us in Christ
Priest: Praise to you, Holy Spirit, the Consoler,
your unfailing power gives us strength in our body’s weakness
All: Blessed be God who heals us in Christ
Priest: God of love and mercy, ease the suffering of our sisters and brothers, and comfort them in their weakness, as they are anointed now with this holy oil.
All: Amen

*Anointing*
*While it is true that all of us are in need of healing in various ways, the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is intended for those who are seriously ill. Those of us not receiving the sacrament can support those gathered here by our prayer and song at this time.*

*The priest anoints the forehead of the sick person, saying:*
Priest: Through this holy anointing,
may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit.
Individual: Amen

*The priest anoints the sick person’s hands, saying:*
Priest: May the Lord who frees you from sin, save you and raise you up.
Individual: Amen
Prayer after the anointing of the sick

Priest: Father in heaven, through this holy anointing
Grant our brothers and sisters comfort in their suffering.
When they are afraid, give them courage;
When they are afflicted, give them patience;
When they are dejected, bring them hope
And when alone, assure them of the support of their community.
We ask this through Christ our Lord

All: Amen

Concluding Rite

Priest: Gathered together today as children of the one Father, we come with our differing needs as we pray, Our Father

Priest: God our Father, your love guides every moment of our lives.
Accept the prayers we have offered for our sick sisters and brothers;
In your kindness make them well.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Before the Final Blessing

Celebrant invites all those who are carers in the community to stand

Priest: We pray for your blessing on the hands of these, your servants, dedicated to work in the service of others.

Let their hands be signs of your love and concern for all.
Let them never weary in their task of healing,
but bring refreshment and comfort to all who suffer.
Protect them from all harm,
and at the last, let them shine forth in the splendour of your kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

As the nurses and carers come forward for the blessing, the celebrant touches their hands, making the sign of the cross with holy water on the palms of their hands and says, “Let these hands be signs of your love and concern.”
Final Blessing

Priest: May the love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself.
All: Amen.

Priest: May the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service.
All: Amen.

Priest: May the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your souls.
All: Amen.

Priest: May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, + the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always.
All: Amen.