

CDSC Guidelines for Prayer Ministry-Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.

Documents:

Policy for Prayer Ministry, Diocese of Portsmouth June 2019. This policy has formed the basis for this document.

Safeguarding Guidelines: The Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

Safeguarding Training Document and Handout-CDSC Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.

Policy

Our CDSC Arundel and Brighton guidelines for prayer ministry should be followed at all times. These are:

- There should be no prayer ministry to anyone under 18 without parental permission.
- Volunteers should always pray in pairs with at least one other person of the same sex as the person being ministered to, if possible.
- Prayer ministry should be performed with the suppliant seated to prevent potential injury to them if they have the experience of 'Resting in the Spirit'.
- The person being prayed with should be asked if they would like prayer ministry.
- The two pray-ers should introduce themselves [Christian names] and ask for the Christian name of the one they are praying for.
- If the person being prayed with has not experienced prayer ministry before, one of the pair should offer a brief explanation of what will happen. The person being prayed with should be asked what or who they would like the prayer for. Not all prayer requests are for healing. There are many difficult situations for which people need prayer.
- 'Touching' such as the 'laying on of hands' or a gentle resting on the shoulder is appropriate. However permission should always be sought to do so and some cultures do not like having hands placed on heads for prayer.
- One of the pair prays aloud while the other person prays in silence. The pair may swap roles.
- After prayer ministry, confidentiality should be adhered to. In the event that a disclosure of abuse is made, the person making it should be given an explanation of why you have a legal duty to refer the disclosure to the relevant authority.
- Avoid being together in private when offering prayer ministry especially so, if you are ministering to someone of the opposite sex.

- Be careful about what you say and how you say it. Someone else may misinterpret your action/s no matter how well intentioned.
- Prayer ministry activity should be conducted at all times according to the CDSC document: Safeguarding Guidelines for the CDSC Arundel and Brighton Diocese.

Procedure for Prayer Ministry for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit [Acts 1:4, 5 & 8 and Acts 2:39-40].

1. Ensure the person to be prayed with is seated safely.
2. Introduce yourselves to each other [Christian names].
3. Explain what will happen:
 - i. With your permission we will gently lay a hand on your shoulder or head.
 - ii. We will pray with you for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.
 - iii. If you would like prayer for healing or if you have any other intention you would like us to pray for, please tell us now. After we have prayed with you for the baptism in the Holy Spirit, we will pray for healing or your special intention/s.
 - iv. We will give thanks for what the Holy Spirit is doing in your life to end the ministry time.
4. Explain to the person being prayed with, to let us do the praying whilst they simply remain open to receive the presence, power and gifts of the Holy Spirit. For some this will be a new experience, for some it will be an awakening of the Spirit given to them at their baptism and confirmation. For others it will be a refreshing of the same Holy Spirit.

Procedure for Healing Prayer Ministry

Follow steps 1-4 as above.

Step 3.iii. Add 'Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus and in the power of your Holy Spirit, stretch out your hand to heal to wholeness in body, mind and spirit' [Acts 4:29-30].

This is meant to be a help for you to begin in this ministry. The Holy Spirit will lead you and guide you in how and what to pray for as you grow in this ministry. It is His ministry and He will use you as an empty vessel to continue His mission of bringing his healing love to a hurting world.