

RITE FOR THE BLESSING OF A STOLE

The stole is placed on the altar at the beginning of the Mass. After the Communion, and before the final prayers and dismissal, the following rite may be used:

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Priest: The stole that is to be blessed has its origins deep in the history of both Christianity and Judaism and has echoes of garlands worn at festivals, humble towels and signs of office in the Roman Empire. It is a vestment common to the Western and Eastern Churches and, whilst its origins are obscure, it has come to symbolise the role of the Deacon as servant within the Church. It is, thus, a reminder to Priests that they, too, remain servants of Christ.

As we set this stole aside for the service of God and his people, let us also remember those who will wear it (and, in particular, *N*)

Priest: Our help is in the name of the Lord

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Let us pray for God's blessing on this stole.
(Silence)

Almighty and everlasting God
who ordained of old through your servant Moses,
that sacred vestments should be worn to dignify and glorify worship
and taught that whoever would be a follower of your Son
must also be a servant of all:
+ bless, + sanctify + and consecrate this stole
that it may be made fitting for your service.
Let your sacred ministers who wear it
be guarded and defended from all assaults and temptations of evil
and help them to celebrate your holy mysteries reverently and well
and finally gain the reward of everlasting life.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son ...

(The stole is sprinkled with holy water and handed to the minister)