

Oath of allegiance

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

Instructions are in italics.

The relationship between the church and her clergy is akin to that of Christ to his church.

The Old Catholic Apostolic Church (OCAC) is free and liberal, in that you are not bound to believe the same things as others in the church, and the church does not insist on dogma.

However, it is essential that each serving clergy member can be assured of the trust of the church, and likewise the church needs to rely on and trust her clergy. At appointment, either within the seminary or at entry to minor orders for ordinands; or at entry to OCAC for incardinands, each person makes this oath.

The church appoints a representative to hear this oath, usually the nearest bishop, who may devolve this to any suitable clergy. At least one witness is required.

The Representative holds a Bible, and the Candidate touches this whilst saying his or her words. The witness(es) looks on.

Representative: In the name of the Most High God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Representative: On behalf of Christ and the Old Catholic Apostolic Church I ask you: Will you truthfully and diligently serve in our church, without hindrance or secret intent; and will you be obedient to our bishops and your fellow clergy in canonical obedience?

Candidate: I, *(Insert full name)*, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Christ in the Old Catholic Apostolic Church, her heirs and successors, according to canon law. So help me God. ”

Representative: As a brother/sister in Christ, OCAC promises you that we will treat you likewise and we will spiritually empower and authorise your ministry within our canons.

All present share a sign of peace.

All present say the Lords Prayer

All: Our Father.....

All: Amen.

A certificate recording this oath is signed by those present, which is forwarded to the Provincial or Head Office as appropriate. It will be displayed on the church website.