



Anointing of the Sick

Below is only a brief outline of the sacrament along with the Catholic particularity of each sacrament. The recontextualisation of each sacrament is explored and explained in the "Sacraments Tile" on the Awakenings website.

The sacraments embrace the whole of human life celebrating birth, growth, commitment and also the negative life experiences including failure and death. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick addresses the negative life experiences of suffering and death.

The celebration of this sacrament is a symbolic action where the particular circumstances of the infirmed person are placed before God and created anew through this encounter^[1]. In this sacrament, God's gratuitous gift is the renewed gift of the Spirit who provides healing and gives comfort and strength to the sick or aged person^[2].

- Anointing of the Sick is not just about addressing one's mortality but also *proclaiming one's faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*
- Anointing of the Sick is not just about professing support for the sick and aged but also *professing Christ's love to the sick and aged.*
- Anointing of the Sick is not just about comforting the sick in a time of need but also about *the sick person experiencing Jesus' mercy and compassion.*
- Anointing of the Sick is not just about easing the concerns and anxieties of the sick or aged person but also *experiencing the renewed gift of the Spirit who provides healing, comfort, support and strength to the sick or aged person.*
- Anointing the Sick is not just about the end of life but also *about the ill or aged person being a witness to the faith community of the hope that he/she will come home to God at the end of life.*

[1] Lambert J. Leijssen, *With the Silent Glimmer of God's Spirit: A Postmodern Look at the Sacraments*, trans. Marie Baird (Mahwah, New Jersey: Paulist Press, 2007), 86.

[2] Leijssen, *With the Silent Glimmer of God's Spirit*, 85.