

EMBER DAY LETTERS CUSTOMARY

Historically, Ember Day Letters were a key communication means for clergy separated from their Bishop (by miles and without phone or texts) but desiring to stay in a relationship with him. Because this tradition is a good discipline to remind us of the importance of being in a relationship, Postulants and Candidates for the diaconate or priesthood, and newly ordained clergy, are asked to report to Bishop Farmer, in writing, at each of the Ember Day seasons. These letters may begin following your admittance as a Postulant and they will continue through the first year of ordained ministry. It is sufficient to have the letter to the Bishop by the end of the month.

Ember Days (See the 2019 BCP, page 689) are set aside for prayers for those called to Holy Orders, and occur on the following Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays:

1. After St. Lucy Day *December 13*
2. After the First Sunday in Lent
3. After the Day of Pentecost
4. After Holy Cross Day *September 14*

As a result, please aim to submit during Advent, Lent, Pentecost, and Holy Cross.

Your letters might include references, if applicable, to the following:

- Content of your studies
- Challenging or exciting ideas or people you have encountered
- Nature of your prayer life, challenges and blessings
- Family life, joys and challenges
- Community life
- Recreation
- Parish life

Please reflect on what the experiences you encounter mean for you. It is not enough to say that you read a book or took a course, but how did it affect you? What might you have learned that you didn't know before? Was it helpful or challenging? Are you struggling with long held beliefs that no longer seem tenable? What are the ups and downs of your spiritual journey? Where are you today and what works? What is hard and why? By explaining our spiritual journey, we begin to understand and respond to the journey of others.

Usually, a page or two is sufficient. Please send your letters by email to Bishop Farmer with copies to the Canon for Leadership and the Archdeacon.