

Preparing Prayers of the Faithful

In preparing yourself to write the prayer of the faithful for parish Mass

- Look at the readings and prayers of the Mass and use them for your prayer.
- Reflect on how they speak of the love of God for all, and the quality of life that they call us to make our own
- Ask for the grace to be attentive and mindful of the needs and concerns of the world, the Church and your own local community.
- Spend time in prayer, praying for yourself, and the other parish ministers—that the service you will offer will truly help people to express their prayer.
- Ensure that you will prepare the Prayer in good time to allow others to make their necessary preparations.

*Ask, and it will be given you;
search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened for you.
For everyone who asks receives,
and everyone who searches finds,
and for everyone who knocks,
the door will be opened.*

Matthew 7:7–8



Kee your Church alert in faith
to the signs of the times
and eager to accept
the challenge of the gospel.

Open our hearts
to the needs of all humanity,
so that sharing their grief and anguish,
their joy and hope,
we may faithfully bring them
the good news of salvation
and together on the way to your kingdom.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER FOR MASSES
FOR VARIOUS NEEDS AND OCCASIONS

**Liturgy
Office**
ENGLAND
& WALES

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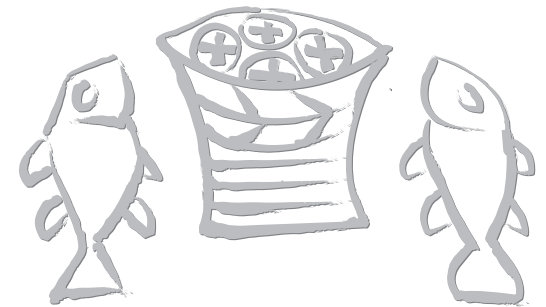
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M015

Preparing the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass



*First of all, then, I urge that supplications,
prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be
made for everyone, for kings and all who
are in high positions, so that we may lead
a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness
and dignity.*

1 TIMOTHY 2:1–2

The Eucharist is the vital centre of all that the Church is and does. At its heart is the real presence of the crucified, risen and glorified Lord, who continues his saving work among us. The Second Vatican Council reminded us: ‘the most holy Eucharist holds within itself the whole spiritual treasure of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Passover and our living bread’. (cf. *One Bread One Body* 3)

All who exercise a liturgical ministry need a proper preparation for their responsibilities. They are to have the competence to perform the particular ministry with which they have been entrusted. (cf. *Celebrating the Mass* 29)



This leaflet is one of a series of leaflets prepared for liturgical ministers to help them refresh their understanding of their role at Mass. The series draws on the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* and *Celebrating the Mass*, a document of the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales.

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What the Church says about...

The Assembly

In the celebration of the Eucharist the assembly is united in and by the principal actions of gathering, listening to God’s word, praying for life of the Church and the world, giving thanks, sharing communion and being sent out for the work of loving and serving God.

Celebrating the Mass (CTM) 24

The Prayer of the Faithful

Enlightened and moved by God’s word, the assembly exercises its priestly function by interceding for all humanity. Because “the joy and hope, the struggle and anguish of the people of this age and especially of the poor and those suffering in any way are the joy and hope, the struggle and anguish of Christ’s disciples,” the Church prays not just for its own needs but for the salvation of the world, for civil authorities, for those oppressed by any burden, and for the local community, particularly those who are sick or who have died.

Thus, even though the intercessions may be quite concrete or particular in content, they should always look beyond the concerns of the local assembly to the needs of the whole Church and of the wider world. They are a sign of the communion of the particular assembly with all other assemblies and with the universal Church.

CTM 171-2

Structure

As a rule, the series of intentions is to be:

- a. for the needs of the Church;
- b. for public authorities and the salvation of the whole world;
- c. for those burdened by any kind of difficulty;
- d. for the local community.

General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) 70

It is appropriate for the Prayer of the Faithful to be included in all Masses.

Both the priest’s introduction and the proposed intentions are addressed to the assembly, not to God. They are invitations or biddings to the faithful, who normally will first pray silently for each intention and then give expression to their common prayer in an invocation sung or said together after each intention. Alternatively the prayer after each intention may simply be offered in silence.

These intentions should be short, clear, and objective enough for the faithful to understand and respond to them without difficulty. They should express the prayer of the entire community. There should be a significant pause after the intention has been read, while the assembly prays before the response is sung or said

CTM 173