

The Parish of St Mary, Woolhampton

Guidelines - Prayer of the Faithful (also known as 'Prayers of Intercession' or 'Bidding Prayers')

Introduction

In the Prayer of the Faithful, the people respond in a certain way to the word of God which they have welcomed in faith and, exercising the office of their baptismal priesthood, offer prayers to God for the salvation of all...so that petitions will be offered for the whole church, for civil authorities, for those weighed down by various needs, for all men and women, and for the salvation of the whole world (*GIRM 69-70).

Guidelines

1. The reader, as a matter of courtesy and to discuss that any special intentions, must make his or herself known to the Priest before Mass begins.

2. The Order of Prayers - as a rule the series of intentions is to be for:

- the needs of the Church
- public authorities and the salvation of the whole world
- those burdened by any kind of difficulty
- the local community
- the dead

The prayers should be in that order – not a random selection of topics

3. Special Masses - at celebrations such as a wedding, funeral or confirmation, the prayers may include more particular concerns but should never omit the world-wide intentions. (GIRM 70)

4. The Wider World – the prayers should look beyond the concerns of the local community: they are a sign of the communion of the particular assembly with all the other assemblies and with the whole Church (CM 172).

5. The Role of the Priest- he directs the prayer from the chair. He first invites the people to pray. The reader will follow the priest's introductory prayer by reading the prayers in the order outlined above. The priest will then close, drawing the intercessions together in a brief concluding prayer. It will be at this point that the priest will choose whether to say the 'Hail Mary' and /or invite a period of silence for private intentions.

6. The Form of Prayer:

- i. The prayers are invitations, or biddings, to the faithful who normally will pray first silently for each intention and then give expression to their common prayer in an invocation sung or said together after each intention. ("Lord Hear us... Lord Graciously Hear us"). Alternatively, the prayer after each intention may simply be offered in silence (*CM 173). Therefore the prayers should not begin 'Dear God' or 'Please God': both the priest's introduction and the intentions are addressed to the assembly, not to God
- ii. The persons who compose the prayers should be aware of any special dedications

such as World Communications Day, Holocaust Memorial Day, Sea Sunday, Education Sunday, Prisoners Sunday, World AIDS Day etc. deserving of a particular intention which would come under the category of either the salvation of the world or those burdened by any kind of difficulty

- iii. It is advisable to leave some seconds (10?) for silent prayer before seeking the response.
- iv. The intentions should be short, clear and objective (i.e. one idea, one sentence, no more than two clauses) – do not fall into the temptation to make the prayers into a news bulletin, for example do not use a detailed description of a disease or its treatment
- v. The intentions are proposed by a deacon, a cantor, reader, other minister or members of the assembly at the ambo or other suitable place
- vi. The Roman rite does not envisage devotional prayers – there is no need to include the ‘Hail Mary’.
- vii. Those who read the intentions return to their place only after the priest says the concluding prayer.

* GIRM = General Instruction on the Roman Missal

* CM = Celebrating Mass, Bishop’s Conference of England & Wales document on the liturgy

Further Notes

Below are some examples of prayers: web addresses where prayers can be found are also included.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

The Priest says:

The beatitudes in Luke’s Gospel speak not only of blessings but also of woes for in Jesus mercy and justice are perfectly balanced.

The Reader says:

May we Christians in our questions about the faith, seek truth in a respectful manner, and find Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Lord, hear us.

That the people of Haiti, now poor in material possessions, may be rich in the gifts of the kingdom of God, and carry in their hearts hope for the future, respect for one another and trust in God.

Lord, hear us.

That those who feel the pain of hunger around the world, and here in our own suburbs and streets, may be fed through Aid Organisations, Church and community programmes and services.

Lord, hear us.

That those who weep because of grief, pain, anxiety or loneliness, may find through family, friends and neighbours, Church, government and community services, that hope which will lead to joy and laughter.

Lord, hear us

That on this St Valentine's Day, all those who are in love, and those who can remember, may rejoice in the love which they receive from others and which they share generously.

Lord, hear us.

That those who have died may share a glorious resurrection with Jesus

We remember . . .

Lord, hear us.

The Priest says:

Lord, grant us your healing, so that free from sin we may praise and thank you in this Eucharist through Christ our Lord.

See - <http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/media/files/3700.pdf>

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

The Priest says:

Let us ask the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name, to send the Spirit of his Son into our hearts as we pray for the needs of the Church and of the world.

The Reader says:

O Lord, the creator and redeemer of all mankind,
we humbly pray for all men of every race and in every kind of need:
make your ways known to them, and reveal your salvation to the nations.
Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

May the whole Church be guided and governed by your Holy Spirit,
let all who call themselves Christians be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in the unity of Spirit.

Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend to your fatherly goodness all who are afflicted or distressed,
comfort and relieve them according to their needs, and grant them the love and consolation of your Spirit.

Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

Father, give a place of life and rest to those who have died in your peace,
may we share with them in the glory of Jesus Christ, who died to save us all.

Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

The Priest concludes the prayers:

Our Lady is the Mother of the Church and shows her care for us all by her prayers. We join our prayers with hers as we say: Hail Mary.

In a moment of silence,
let us make our private petitions to God our almighty Father.

Father, hear the prayers of your Church. In your great love, make up for what is lacking in our faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

See - <http://biddings.blogspot.com/>

The Parish Pastoral Council – 2010