



Invite youth to write the prayers of the faithful

Introduction

In the Prayers of the Faithful the assembly is invited to pray for the concerns of Church and the world. The pattern for use at Mass reminds us that the local Church gather in prayer united with the universal Church.

Sections 69 and 70 of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal states:

In the Universal Prayer or Prayer of the Faithful, the people respond in some sense to the Word of God which they have received in faith and, exercising the office of their baptismal priesthood, offer prayers to God for the salvation of all. It is desirable that there usually be such a form of prayer in Masses celebrated with the people, so that petitions may be offered for holy Church, for those who govern with authority over us, for those weighed down by various needs, for all humanity, and for salvation of the whole world.

The series of intentions is usually 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.

Nevertheless, in any particular celebration, such as a Confirmation, a Marriage, or at a Funeral, the series of intentions may be concerned more closely with the particular celebration.

Inviting youth from your parish or group is a good way for them to identify the needs of the world and their own community.

The overall structure of the Prayer of the Faithful is given in Celebrating the Mass, paragraph 173 and is briefly as follows.

- Invitation to Prayer
- Silence
- Intentions (Let us pray for...)
- Silence for prayer
- Response
- Concluding Prayer

Familiar responses include:

We pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

The Concluding Prayer is normally in the form of a collect prayer.

Example prayers from St Patrick's Cathedral Auckland are shown on the following pages.

St Patrick's Cathedral
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10th July 2011

Presider: God our Father, we now place our prayers and petitions before you with the great confidence that they will be heard; so we pray:

- 1) For the Church: that we may they be guided by God's spirit in our effort to produce a harvest of justice, love and peace, so that all may experience the graciousness of God. We pray to the Lord

- 2) For our parish community, help us Lord to recognise the seed of your word at work in our lives. May we never get distracted by the cares of this world but be active in your service of love. We pray to the Lord

- 3) On this Sunday of the Apostleship of the Sea, we pray that the Church may continue to minister and care for the spiritual, social, and material welfare of all Seafarers and Fishers. We pray to the Lord

- 4) For the people of are cold, hungry and homeless this winter, and those involved in their care, may we all be generous in response to their need. We pray to the Lord

- 5) For all the sick: may they experience the healing power of Christ giving them hopeWe pray to the Lord

- 6) For those who have died: that they may now enjoy the light, happiness and peace in heaven and may those all who mourn be sustained by their faith in the risen Lord and by the love of us allWe pray to the Lord

- 7) We pray in silence for our own needs.....
.....We pray to the Lord

Presider: God our Father, plant in our hearts the seeds of faith and by the dew of the Holy Spirit cause us to bring forth an abundant harvest of good works. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord Amen.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
8th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 27 February 2011

Presider: Let us bring all our prayers and those of the world before our God who will never forget us:

1) **FOR THE PEOPLE OF CHRISTCHURCH:** may faith and hope replace the fear and trauma of earthquakes. May our concern and support be a source of love and reassurance for them.....

..... We pray to the Lord

2) **FOR VICTIMS OF THE EARTHQUAKE:** may those who have suffered injuries and those who mourn loved ones know the healing love and peace of Jesus and may those who have died enjoy eternal rest.....

.....We pray to the Lord

3) **FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN EMERGENCY SERVICES:** may the teams of rescue workers from overseas and from New Zealand be safe from danger as they try to find those buried in the earthquake rubble.....

.....We pray to the Lord

4) **FOR ALL NEW ZEALANDERS:** amidst this natural disaster, may we know and believe God's words, "I will never forget you, my people.".....

.....We pray to the Lord

5) **FOR OURSELVES:** may we set our hearts on the Kingdom of God by striving to live the gospel with all our hearts.....

.....We pray to the Lord

6) **FOR THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** may all Christians throughout the world give witness to their faith this coming Friday and may we who gather in Holy Trinity Cathedral show our unity as disciples of

Jesus.....

.....We pray to the Lord

7) We pray in silence for the people of Christchurch

Presider: God of justice and mercy, you are our saving God. Come with your power to save us and answer our prayers. Amen.

St Patrick's Cathedral
Ascension Sunday of Easter, 05 June 2011

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, you have promised to be with us always, even to the end of time, and so we pray:

1) **FOR THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:** may we open ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit and, as did the first disciples, may we to give witness to Jesus to the ends of the earth.....
.....We pray to the Lord

2) **FOR TRUE DISCIPLESHIP:** with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, may we know the hope to which we are called, and the immeasurable greatness of God's power working within us.....
.....We pray to the Lord

3) **FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:** may all Jesus' disciples be united in prayer and, in Christian faith, may we work together for justice, peace and unity that God's kingdom may come.....
.....We pray to the Lord

4) **FOR THE ENVIRONMENT:** we thank God for the gift of earth and all its resources. May we each take responsibility to care for and treasure all of God's creation.....
.....We pray to the Lord

5) **FOR THE QUEEN AND ROYAL FAMILY:** as we celebrate a holiday in her honour, we pray that the Queen and her family may be strengthened by their faith in God and guided by the Holy Spirit in all their decision making.....
.....We pray to the Lord

6) **FOR ALL THOSE NEW TO CATHOLIC FAITH AND FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION:** may they, children and adults, be empowered by the Holy Spirit and be ever more conscious of the Spirit dwelling within them.....
.....We pray to the Lord

7) **FOR THOSE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYER:** we remember all those with anxieties about health, family, housing, relationships, employment, and immigration. May they be strengthened by our prayer and concern.....
.....We pray to the Lord

8) We pray in silence for our own needs

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, you ascended to the heavens and reign over all the earth. Though we cannot see you, we know that you are near. Hear and answer our prayers. Amen.

St Patrick's Cathedral
Second Sunday of Easter, 1 May 2011

Presider: O God of the Prophets, you sent your Son Jesus as the last and greatest of the prophets. In his name we pray for all those who seek salvation:

9) **FOR THE CHURCH:** may we, who have not seen the wounds of Jesus as Thomas did, be strengthened in faith and blessed as Jesus promised. May we also humbly praise our Risen Saviour, "My Lord and my God".....
.....We pray to the Lord

10) **FOR ALL CHRISTIANS:** may we be devoted to the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers.....
.....We pray to the Lord

11) **FOR COUPLES CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** may William and Katherine and all who marry be blessed with a deep faith in each other. May the love they have for one another witness to the miracle of God's love for us.....
.....We pray to the Lord

12) **FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF JOHN PAUL 11:** may the life of John Paul 11 be an inspiration for us and lead us to reflect more deeply on the mystery of our salvation.....
.....We pray to the Lord

13) **FOR THOSE WHO RECEIVED THE SACRAMENTS AT EASTER; FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS TODAY AND FOR FAMILIES PRESENTING CHILDREN FOR BAPTISM:** may they praise God for the wonder of new life we all receive through the Resurrection.....
.....We pray to the Lord

14) **FOR COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTHERN AFRICA:** may conflict and violence cease and may leaders of the peoples seek peace through dialogue and forgiveness.....
.....We pray to the Lord

15) We pray in silence for our own needs

Presider: Risen Saviour, give us a love that sees you risen among us and sends us forth as bearers of the Good News. Amen.