

Praying for your Parish:

A resource for individuals to use at home



The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

Matthew 9.37-38

This little booklet provides guidance for those who wish to pray regularly for their parishes. It could be used by a prayer group, but its primary purpose is to support those whose instinct is to “go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen.”

If you’re not sure what to pray about, then your Parish Priest will be glad to talk to you about where s/he would most value your prayers at the moment.

What’s here is a framework, to which your own prayers for current local concerns can be added. We all have our preferred ways of praying, and some people will like the structure offered here but prefer to fill it with their own words. Others will prefer to read the words as they stand, and yet others will like to use a mixture of the words printed here and their own words.

Whatever our preferred, style, we can be confident that our Father *always* answers when we pray in faith.

Preparation

O God, I am in Thy presence.

Shut out the world

and all worldly things from me.

Send Thy Holy Spirit

to help my infirmities,

and bless to me this time of prayer;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Adoration

Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.

He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.

Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40.28-31

Confession

O Lord, the God of mercy and
compassion,
I confess and bewail before Thee
all the sins of thought, word, and deed,
of wilfulness or weakness,
of neglect or ignorance,
by which I have provoked Thee to anger.

*Especially do I now confess that I have sinned
against Thee by . . .*

Spare me, O merciful Father,
spare Thy sinful child,
who cries to Thee for pardon.

Turn not Thy face away from me,
but forgive me my sins,
and cleanse me from all unrighteousness;
for the sake of Thy dear Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Thanksgiving

Thank you, Lord,
for the precious gift of your forgiveness.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions
to the Lord."

And you forgave the guilt of my sin.
Thank you, Lord,
for the precious gift of your forgiveness.
Amen.

Father God,
I thank you for your many blessings.
Especially now I thank you for . . .
For all of these blessings, I thank you in
Jesus' name.
Amen.

Intercessions

Some people will like to meditate on each section of the Lord's Prayer, linking it to their own intercessions in the style suggested overleaf. Others will prefer to say the Lord's Prayer uninterrupted, either before or after their own intercessions. Please just use the style that feels most comfortable to you.

Our Father, who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.

*Father, you are the source of all love. Please
increase our love for you and for each other.*

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.

*Father, please help me to discern your will and
be obedient to your guidance.*

May your will to be done here in this parish.

Give us this day our daily bread.

*Father, I pray for your blessing and guidance
on . . .*

Our clergy and lay leaders . . .

Our services and events . . .

Our new and ongoing initiatives . . .

And forgive us our trespasses,

*Father, I pray that you would reveal to your
church any ways in which we have let down
this parish, any hurts that we have caused.*

*Please help us to seek forgiveness, and please
bring healing where it is needed.*

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

By your grace, Heavenly Father, please help us to respond in love when difficulties arise, so that your church may be as salt and light to this parish and to the world.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

Lord of all that is, seen and unseen, I pray in Jesus' name for your protection around this church and this parish.

Please reveal anything that is taking root here which is not of you, that it might be uprooted by the power of your Holy Spirit, and wither in the light of your justice and truth.

For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, For ever and ever.

Father, please show us how to reveal your healing love, your power and your glory to the people of this parish. Give us the courage to step out in obedience to you, and keep our feet on the paths you have planned for us.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Pray to the Lord of the Harvest

Almighty God, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ always to hear us when we pray in faith.

So now, Lord, I ask that you would send out workers into your harvest field. Please raise up just the right people to serve you here in this parish, so that your will may be done, your Kingdom come, here in this place as it is in Heaven.

For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Additional copies of this leaflet, and a modern-language version, can be downloaded from www.fossedeanery.co.uk.