

## INTERCESSIONS IN CHURCH

Thank you for taking on the responsibility of leading intercessions.

If this is prepared well it enhances our worship and helps us to draw near to God.

Please be sure to **pray before you start your preparation.**

When you lead intercessions **you are representing the congregation** mostly in their petitions (requests) to God. The remainder of the services contain prayers of worship and adoration.

Choosing prayers requires **balance.**

Adequately cover those matters which require prayer.

BUT People's attention may wander if you pray for everything under the sun.

Try to tie in the prayers with the **current needs** of the church and particularly the **theme of the service** (which can usually be gleaned from the lectionary readings)

Be sensitive to **current events**

Each church should have a **book with prayer requests** which you should consult before the service and include in your intercessions.

\*\*Please include the **“Please Pray For...” from the News Sheet.**

\*\***Please look ahead in the News Sheet to see if there is a baptism** on the day you are preparing for. **If there is... do not prepare any intercessions,** as there are already enough prayers in that service.

### **A Prayer Book for Australia (APBA).**

Holy Communion at p172-173

**For the nations** – Consult the TV news and newspapers. Only mention the few most important issues.

**For the Church** - Include missionaries and our diocese from the News Sheet (Please pray for). Include particular upcoming parish events from the News Sheet.

**Those in Need** - The use of a book for recording needs. Encouraging those who pray for people in need to speak loudly and clearly just prior to this prayer.

**Thanksgiving for The Faithfully Departed** - Especially members of the congregation who have died recently or close to the anniversary of their death  
The scope of p172-3 may be used without necessarily always using the set endings.

### **Alternative Forms p184-187**

This form gives greater flexibility for introducing a selection of prayers or even writing your own prayers

#### **Litanies p188ff**

It is good to use this form every so often. Because it is so long in a full service it is often advisable selective a few prayers from each section

#### **Occasional Prayers p202ff**

Prayers for many occasions. The congregation could join in with these.

### **Other ways of leading prayers. Only when there is a more informal service**

- Beginning with a time of requests (This needs to be carefully controlled with respect to time and gossip considerations particularly)

- Having a short time of open prayer

Additional Prayers may be selected for any of the forms and services from p14-16.

You may use prayers from other books:-

For example:-

*Australian Prayers* by Bruce Prewer (One of his would suffice)

*New Parish Prayers* and *Contemporary Parish Prayers* by Frank Colquhoun.

*Everyday Prayers and More Everyday Prayers*. Allen Birtwhistle et al.

*Let us Pray\** – Janet Nelson (Linked to the lectionary)

**When selecting prayers you should avoid the following:-**

- Prayers addressed to anyone other than God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit. There is only one mediator between us and God, our Lord, Jesus Christ.
- Prayers on behalf of those who have died. Our prayers are for the living.
- "I pray" - rather use "we"
- Terms like we "wish", or "hope". The Bible encourages us to pray confidently to a Father who can do anything.
- Too many prayers, even though many may look good.
- Boring Prayers.
- Telling God what he already knows
- Preaching at the congregation

**Other things to think about**

- Announce the page number and allow time for people to find the place.
- Speak clearly. Adjust the microphone if there is one and speak into it.
- Use expression, mean what you say even if you are very familiar with the passage.
- Don't rush.
- Don't forget that, after we have prepared as well as we can, the Holy Spirit compensates for a lot of our mistakes (Rom 8:26-27). Don't be put off by thinking that there is just too much to think about.

**Biblical Prayers to learn from...**

2 Cor 13:9 Eph 1:17-19, 3:16-21, 6:19-20 Col 4:3-4 2 Thes 1:11, 3:1 Jam 5:13-16