

# LEADING THE INTERCESSIONS IN CHURCH

## Some Guidelines

Lord, in your mercy,  
  
Hear our prayer

First of all, remember that leading the Intercessions in Church is both a MINISTRY and a PRIVILEGE.

The role of the Intercessor is **TO ENABLE OTHERS TO PRAY.**

Leading the Intercessions at the Eucharist is not the same as leading prayers in, say, a Prayer Group. So the Intercessions at the Eucharist have a different 'style'. They are more 'immediate' and current.

The guidelines offered by the wider Church (e.g. The Church of England), is that the Intercessions at the Eucharist should include the following themes:

- Prayer for the Church: including our Bishops, Robert and Andrew
- Prayer for the world – its leaders, and any current events
- Prayers for the local community; our families and friends
- Prayers for those in need; e.g. the sick, suffering and bereaved
- Remembrance of the Departed and the Saints.

A useful phrase to use when remembering the Departed can be:

***Rest eternal, grant to them, O Lord,  
and let light perpetual shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace, and rise in glory.***

Unless you are very experienced at leading Intercessions, then it is usually a bad idea to hope for inspiration on the day! Intercessions need careful preparation if they are

to enable others to pray. They may even need to be adapted in the light of most recent events. For instance, it would seem ridiculous if there was a world-shattering event late on Saturday night which wasn't included in the prayers on Sunday morning.

So always – as far as you are able – try and listen to the news on Sunday morning, just in case there is something which needs praying about.

Similarly, be aware of the Church's 'seasons'. It would be strange indeed to make no mention of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day!

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

This is particularly an issue when it comes to praying for the sick.

**Medical details, history or updates MUST NEVER** be included in the Intercessions: simply the name will suffice. God knows their needs!

So...

**DO:** be prepared, informed and relevant. Be aware of current world events, and also more regional, and local (e.g. Chaplaincy) events/happenings/concerns. Remember – we are part of a wider family, both globally and locally.

Leading the Intercessions must never be used as an opportunity for expressing personal preferences, hopes or dislikes!

So:

**NEVER:** tell God what he already knows!  
express personal opinions:  
hold a 'conversation with God'. You are there to help others to pray, not to indulge yourself!  
Go on too long! If you lose your audience's attention, you've wasted your breath! (and probably bored God – and everyone else - in the process!)

**On the day:** So that the liturgy runs smoothly, start making your way to the lectern towards the end of the Creed – especially if you are sitting towards the back of Church!

## **Resources**

Example forms of Intercessions are available in Common Worship and the ASB (Alternative Service Book). You may have a copy, or look on line.

There are also several books available, e.g. 'Leading Intercessions: the Common Worship Edition', by Raymond Chapman, and published by Canterbury Press. Your Chaplain may have a copy you could borrow (but please return it!)

## **AND DON'T FORGET!**

We have wonderful resources on our own web site!

[www.costablanca-anglican-chaplaincy.es/prayersforsunday0](http://www.costablanca-anglican-chaplaincy.es/prayersforsunday0)