

A Model to Follow

Raymond Chapman's structure for Prayers of the People is a useful model. He starts with a brief invitation to prayer based on the Gospel for the Principal Service for Sunday, festivals, or special occasions. His intercessions connect with the lectionary Scripture readings creating links within the service. His Prayers of the People follow five suggested headings of subjects. The BAS includes a rubric on p191 that allows a penitential intercession in the Prayers of the People to replace the Confession. In this case an additional prayer would be appropriate that would express a community's confession of what they have done and what they have not done that in their lives that displeases God.

Introduction

The prayers begin with a brief invitation based on the Gospel read in the worship service. At the end of the introduction the corporate response may be identified for the congregation, for example, Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

1. The Church

The first prayer is always on behalf of all Christians for the Church as the Body of Christ on earth and for Christ's people in their lives of service.

2. The world

Pray for human needs in the world that God created and Christ came to save so that creation may fulfil God's divine purpose.

3. The community

Pray for the concerns most near to us: families, friends, and neighbours. This is the opportunity to pray for more specific concerns. We also pray here for our local community.

4. The suffering

God's compassion reaches out to every one, particularly those who suffer. This intercession offers our own compassion and desire to help people, known and unknown, who are suffering.

5. The Communion of Saints

Prayers for the dead have been part of our liturgy since the earliest days of the Church. When we remember the dead we recall our own mortality and affirm our belief in resurrection and eternal life and to the fellowship of all Christians, living and departed.

Conclusion

The prayers of intercession conclude with sentences that gather the petitions together and offer them on behalf of the whole congregation.