

# Assignment for Prayers of the People

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## Overview

This exercise is intended to help you practice the knowledge you have gained in this course by developing Prayers of the People and leading them.

Using the template on page 2 of this document your task is to develop Prayers of the People for a Sunday of your choosing. If you are working in a small group share observations about your work and experiences with the different resources. What did you find helpful?

The exercise continues when, working with your incumbent, you arrange to lead the Prayers that you have developed.

After you have led the Prayers of the People you developed, have your incumbent contact the Warden of Layreaders and the Warden will credit you with course completion. Please also complete the online course evaluation.

## Resources

In the language of the Book of Alternative Services

- BAS pages 110-129, 675-683, & 691.
- The Vanderbilt Divinity Library Intercessory Prayer Resources

In the Language of the Book of Common Prayer

- BCP pages 30-64
- The Book of Alternative Services pages 235-238
- Handout: [A suggested form for BCP lay-led Intercessions](#)
- The Vanderbilt Divinity Library <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>
- Diocesan Prayer site: Let Us Pray <http://anglican.nb.ca/wp/prayer/resources/>
- Diocese of Springfield Prayers of the People [www.episcopalspringfield.org/prayers-of-the-people/](http://www.episcopalspringfield.org/prayers-of-the-people/)
- St Paul's Episcopal Church <http://stpaulsfay.org/sunday-schedule/prayers-of-the-people/>
- Various resources for liturgical planning organized by Sunday [www.textweek.com](http://www.textweek.com)

## As you prepare... (From Richard Chapman's structure for Prayers of the People)

1. Pray for guidance as you prepare.
2. Read the scripture passages for the day
3. Check if there is a particular theme for the service that should be picked up in the intercessions.
4. Have a clear structure but do not be afraid of variety in your intercessions. Our prayers should reflect God's depth and diversity.
5. Find out about sickness, trouble, or recent deaths in the community. Respect confidentiality; not everyone wants their concerns mentioned publicly.

**Template for Prayers of the People** - (This template follows the resource provided in the course 'A Model to Follow'. You may also use any other template of your choice).

**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.**

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**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.

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**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. This prayer can be expanded to include the Queen and those in authority, or is can be added as a separate intercession.

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**3. The community**

Pray is 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.

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#### **4. The suffering**

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

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#### **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.

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#### **Conclusion**

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

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#### **Completion of Assignment:**

Working with your incumbent, arrange to lead the Prayers that you have developed.

After you have led the Prayers of the People you developed have your incumbent contact the Warden of Layreaders and the Warden will credit you with course completion.