

Guidelines for Bidding Prayers in the Woolhampton Parish

New edition of the 2012 PC Guidelines

The PRIEST directs the prayer from the chair; he first invites the people to pray.

The READER follows the priest's introduction by reading the Intentions (or Intercessions); please project your voice. As a rule, the Intentions should be no more than 4 or 5 and in this order:

1. the needs of the whole Church (no need to pray for the Pope or Bishop who are prayed for in each Eucharistic prayer) and our local church
2. public authorities, and the salvation of the whole world
3. those burdened by any kind of difficulty (e.g. disasters, peace etc..)
4. the local community
5. the dead (recent and anniversaries)

Note, the "Hail Mary" is optional (it is used in no other country but England & Wales).

Please wait at the lectern till the priest perhaps invites a period of silence for private intentions, and then draws the intercessions together in a brief concluding prayer.

NOTE

1. The reader should please see the priest before Mass to discuss any special intentions.
2. The prayers are invitations (or 'biddings') to the people to pray, not a request to God, so the prayers should not begin "Dear God" or "Please God" or "Lord...": but rather, for example, "That those who suffer..." or "That those who have died..." or "May we who..." or "May those caught in".
3. After each intention there should be about 8-10 seconds silence for all to pray to God before the invocation follows "Lord, hear us... Lord, graciously hear us" (or another form).
4. Intentions should be short, succinct, pithy, clear and objective (i.e. one idea, one sentence, no more than two clauses); long or complicated intentions are to be avoided.
5. Be aware of **any special dedications**, such as World Communications Day, Sea Sunday, Education Sunday, Prisoners Sunday, World AIDS Day etc.
6. On the **1st Sunday of the month** please add a prayer for all the housebound of our three churches, reading their names (though not necessarily their churches) from the list now on the church lecterns. This is to ensure our communities remain aware of them and pray for them.
7. On the **3rd Sunday of the month** add a prayer for **care of the environment** in the spirit of *Laudato Si*.

Please avoid:

- hidden announcements (e.g. praying for X "to take place at 7.30pm next Thursday..." rather use the adjective "forthcoming").
- making the prayers into a news bulletin, for example do not use a detailed description of a disease or its treatment.
- preaching; it is easy unintentionally to sound moralizing (e.g. "Let us pray that we shall always remember...") or judgemental or patronizing.