

1. As is clear from the name, these prayers are intended to be made by the faithful, rather than by the celebrant. With this in mind, members of our composer group prepare the intentions for prayer for each Sunday/feast-day.
2. In practical terms, the person allocated for each week emails a draft to the Parish Office (parish@catholic.lu) **5 working days before the Sunday/feast-day concerned**. This enables any necessary editing to be done, including the addition of relevant details such as the names of the recently deceased, or of those who are sick and had asked for prayers.
3. The prayers consist of a short introduction (prepared by the celebrant), five or so brief prayers (composed by a member of the group and read by the reader of the day), each followed by the response **Lord, hear us /Lord graciously hear us**, and rounded off by a short collect, drawing them all together (prepared by the celebrant).
4. The usual order of the prayers (based on the [General Instructions of the Roman Missal](#)) is for a) the Church, b) the world, c) the parish community, d) the sick, and those burdened with any difficulty, e) the faithful departed.

5. Composition Guidelines

We should:

- try to be **brief** ; one or two short sentences are enough (Example: when praying for the Church, it is enough to write “Church leaders”, rather than listing the whole local hierarchy. But - bear in mind that Pope Francis has explicitly asked for our prayers);
- check out the Scriptural readings for the Sunday/feast-day in question, as they may be relevant to the way the intentions will be expressed; the Mass leaflets are available on the [parish website](#);
- commence with a form of words that makes clear for whom the congregation is asked to pray (Example: “**For the** sick,”)
- ensure that the prayers are **topical**, without being news bulletins; remember that topicality also includes referring to nearby dates of importance eg. St Valentine’s Day, Church Day of Prayer for victims /survivors of abuse, Women’s Day etc;
- avoid the political/polemical so as not to be divisive;
- since **inclusivity** is of the essence, try to ensure our prayers speak to those who, for whatever reason, may feel excluded, or on the periphery of our communities;
- avoid combining prayers for the sick with those for the deceased; each is in a separate category (see pt.4 above).

Resources (work in progress)

- "This is a good introduction to Prayers of the Faithful" (Fr Ed): http://www.lords-prayer-words.com/topics/prayers_of_the_faithful.html
- Prayers of the faithful worksheet (Liturgy Office of England and Wales): contains the relevant extracts of the GIRM, i.e. the basic ground rules contained in the General Instructions of the Roman Missal; also contains a template which some might find useful
<https://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Documents/Intercessions.shtml>
- Google: by simply googling Prayers of the Faithful for a particular Sunday (of the correct liturgical year), a number of parish websites worldwide offer their compositions, some of which can be inspirational, especially when stuck!