

## What is the Cycle of Prayer?

In the Cycle of Prayer, the liturgical year has been divided into six periods, as shown in the chart overleaf. Please pray for the intentions stated in the Cycle, not only on a particular day, and not only at Mass, but throughout the current period, especially in your own private prayers. Praying for those intentions will, it is hoped, become an important part of our daily prayer as Christian communities.

### The Sunday 'Prayer of the Faithful'

When a day of special prayer occurs on a Sunday, this will be announced at Mass and a suitable petition will be included in the Prayer of the Faithful. But Sunday Mass, which is the weekly celebration of the Lord's Day, should not be unduly overshadowed by the days of Special Prayer.

## Other Forms of Prayer and Action

There are other ways in which we can, often more suitably, pray together for these intentions.

Weekday Masses can be offered for them — there are many Masses for Various Needs which can be chosen from the Missal. Other prayer services for these intentions can be held in the parish. For example,

- a Vigil Service would be a fitting way to pray for peace.
- Evening Prayer of the Church, a Liturgy of the Word,
- a Holy Hour,
- a procession with litanies,
- or Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

are also very suitable ways of coming together to pray for these special intentions.

In addition to personal and community prayer, it is hoped that there will be active and practical support for some of these causes; for example, world peace, Christian unity, evangelisation, the sick, and the welfare of prisoners and their families.

BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF  
ENGLAND AND WALES

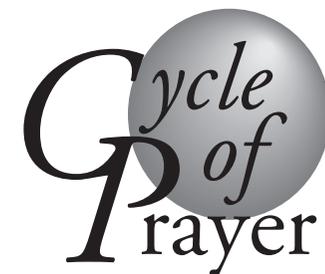
# Introduction

Because the joy and hope, the struggle and anguish of the people of this age and especially of the poor and those suffering in any way are the joy and hope, the struggle and anguish of Christ's disciples, the Church prays not just for its own needs but for the salvation of the world.

The leaflet is one a series of resources produced to support the Cycle of Prayer. They can be downloaded from [www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Cycle](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Cycle)

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# The Cycle of Prayer

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

Openness to the Word of God  
*especially on Bible Sunday  
(Second Sunday in Advent)*

Migrants and Refugees  
*especially on Migrants' Day (3 December)*

Expectant Mothers  
*especially on Fourth Sunday in Advent*

ORDINARY TIME: WINTER

Peace On Earth  
*especially on the Day of Prayer for Peace  
(2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time) and on Ra-  
cial Justice Day (3rd Sunday before Lent)*

Christian Unity  
*especially during the Octave of Prayer for  
Christian Unity (18–25 January)*

Victims of Human Trafficking  
*especially on feast of St Josephine Bakhita (8  
February)*

The Sick  
and Those Who Care for Them  
*especially on the World Day for the Sick  
(11 February)*

The Unemployed  
*especially on the Sunday before the First  
Sunday of Lent*

LENT

Candidates for the Sacraments  
*especially on the Sundays of Lent*

The Needy and Hungry  
of the World  
*especially on Lent Fast Day  
(Friday of the first week in Lent)*

Women's World Day of Prayer  
*(first Friday in March)*

Survivors of Sexual Abuse  
*(Friday of the fifth week of Lent)*

Penitents and Wanderers

EASTER

New Members of the Church

Vocations  
*especially on the World Day of Prayer for  
Vocations (Fourth Sunday of Easter)*

Human Work  
*especially on St Joseph the Worker (1 May)*

The Right Use of the Media  
*especially on World Communications Day  
(Ascension of the Lord)*

The Church  
*especially Pentecost*

ORDINARY TIME: SUMMER

A Deeper Understanding  
between Christians and Jews

Those who Suffer Persecution,  
Oppression  
and Denial of Human Rights  
*especially on St John Fisher and St Thomas  
More (22 June)*

Europe  
*especially of the feasts of St Benedict (11 July),  
St Bridget of Sweden (23 July), St Teresa  
Benedicta of the Cross (9 August) who with  
St Cyril and St Methodius (14 February), and  
St Catherine of Siena (29 April) are Patrons  
of Europe*

Human Life  
*especially on Day for Life (3rd Sunday in  
June)*

Seafarers  
*especially in Sea Sunday (2nd Sunday in July)*

ORDINARY TIME: AUTUMN

The Harvest,  
the Fruits of Human Work,  
and the Reverent Use of Creation  
*especially on World Day of Prayer for the  
Care of Creation (1 September) and on last  
Sunday in September or whenever Harvest  
Festivals are held*

Students and Teachers  
*especially on the Education Day (Second  
Sunday in September)*

The Spread of the Gospel  
*especially on Evangelii Gaudium Day (third  
Sunday in September) & on World Mission  
Day (penultimate Sunday in October)*

Justice and Peace in the World  
*especially on Harvest Fast Day  
(First Friday in October) and World Day of  
the Poor (33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)*

All Victims of War  
*especially on Remembrance Sunday  
(Second Sunday in November)*

Prisoners and their Families  
*especially during Prisons Week  
(second week in October)  
and on the Day of Prayer for Prisoners and  
their Dependants (second Sunday in October)*

Young People  
*especially on Youth Day (Christ the King)*

