



Teaching, Preaching and Prayer Resources

The Foundation

The seven steps describe how the Parish Funding Programme is constructed. However, it must be built on a strong foundation of teaching and prayer.

This Foundation is needed to ensure that:

- We are listening to God's leading throughout the Parish, and seeking His blessing on what we do and the outcomes of the programme.
- We are preparing the hearts and minds of those involved in leading and responding, to recognise that what we do with our money is central to our Christian discipleship
- There is a strong theological input to underpin the programme.

*"Without prayer or Christian teaching,
a programme simply invites people to contribute to cost.*

The call to Christian generosity is a distinctive one and part of our spiritual formation; and when combined with prayerful reflection allows church members to express their giving as part of a grateful response to God's generosity to them."

Dr John Preston, National Stewardship and Resources Officer

PREACHING & TEACHING

The following resources provide teaching material, which is ideally suited to the Parish Funding Programme. It is important that regular teaching on Christian Stewardship takes place in each Parish, irrespective of specific campaigns, such as the Parish Funding Programme. Part of this teaching should come within the responsibility of the clergy, possibly supported by lay readers, ministry team members and/or the Diocesan Resources Officer.

Sermons

Within the PFP, we recommend a short sermon series linking with:

- The principal themes of the discerned vision and plans and/or
- A teaching course

There is a range of preaching materials available from:

Diocese of Liverpool's 'Giving in Grace website at www.givinginGrace.org

Parish Resources website at www.parishresources.org.uk/giving/preaching-stewardship-and-generosity/

The material available contains:

- Preaching Guidelines
- Why does preaching about money matter?
- Planning the Preaching programme
- Thanksgiving Sunday – who will do the Preaching?
- The Value of Testimony
- What about Children?
- What about Teenagers?

Three Preaching Tracks

- Preach Matthew
- Preach 2 Corinthians
- Preach Exodus

Your local Diocesan Stewardship Adviser may have further preaching and teaching materials available.

PRAYER RESOURCES

There is a range of prayer materials available from:

Diocese of Liverpool's 'Giving in Grace website Prayer section at www.givinginGrace.org/prayer
Parish Resources website at www.parishresources.org.uk/giving/worship-resources-for-giving/

The material available contains:

- My prayer matters
- Prayer Options
- Prayers for the Programme
- Liturgical Responses (Matthew, 2 Corinthians, Exodus)
- Preaching and Worship
- Enhancing the offertory

Some parishes have also created their own prayer card or prayer bookmark – with the books of the Bible on one side, and a stewardship prayer on the other.

Example template prayer resources can be found on the Giving in Grace website <http://www.givinginGrace.org/Prayer-Resources>

PRAYER

At the outset of the programme, a continuous pattern of prayer should be established and maintained within (for example):

- Regular services
- The Daily Offices
- Small Groups
- PCC and other meetings
- Prayer cards
- Parish website

The Parish Funding Prayer

There are three suggested prayers, however, we would encourage each Parish to compose their own, relating to their own specific needs and ethos.

PRAYER ONE: (Collect for the Second Sunday of Epiphany—CW)

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new; transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER TWO:

Heavenly Father, give us grateful hearts, that, inspired by your Holy Spirit we may return worthy praise by the offering of our lives and possessions in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER THREE: (adapted from Common Worship)

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, give us grace to return to you what is your own. **Amen.**

Pattern of Prayer for daily use by the whole parish

This simple pattern is suggested as a way of involving the whole Parish in prayer; it can be published as a leaflet for each member to use daily at home.

Every member of the Parish is invited to set aside ten minutes each day for the duration of the programme. If possible, make this the same time every day. Find a suitable place in which to pray, somewhere away from the distractions of the telephone, interruptions etc. somewhere you feel comfortable. If it helps, light a candle.

Position for Prayer

Find a suitable position in which to pray; there are no rules, but it makes a huge difference if your back is straight and your legs uncrossed, this enables you to remain alert, yet relaxed. At the start of each prayer time, become as still as you can and invite the Holy Spirit to guide you.

- First:** Come before God with your desire, in words such as these:
'Lord, I ask for grace to offer all that I have and all that I am to you'.
- Second:** Read prayerfully the Scripture passage set for the day (see below).
- Third:** Take a few minutes to meditate on the passage, look out especially for any words or phrases which may have struck you, and ask God if He has something to say to you through them.
- Fourth:** Pray for ... *(Incumbent)*, ... *(Team Leader)*, members of the PCC and members of the parish.
- Fifth:** Use the Parish Funding Prayer and the Lord's Prayer
- Sixth:** Take a moment to reflect on the prayer time and write down anything that may have struck you.

1.3 Pattern of corporate Prayer for weekly /daily use by the whole parish

This pattern of prayer can be used daily or weekly. It is suggested that, if used daily, times are varied to enable as many as possible to come at least on some occasions. Publish the times widely and encourage those who cannot attend to pray at home or at work at the same time.

Twenty minutes is a good period of time to set aside for this corporate prayer; be sure to start promptly and to end promptly. Think carefully about the best location for these meetings. Meetings can be led by the clergy or lay ministers, the team leader, warden or other competent lay person.

- First:** Welcome the people and ensure that they are comfortable. This may entail explaining and reassuring them about the content of the meeting.
- Second:** Take a little time to become still together.
- Third:** Read slowly the Scripture passage set for that day (see below).
- Fourth:** Leave some time of silence for each person to meditate on the passage.
- Fifth:** Invite short (i.e. a word or phrase only) petitions and encourage silence after each concern. Do not be afraid of silence, a quality silence is a good indicator of prayer.

Sixth: Conclude with the Parish Funding Prayer said together and the Lord's Prayer.

2. Collects

Collects at the end of the Psalms in Celebrating Common prayer

Ps 8	(p 505)
Ps 25	(p 524)
Ps 39	(p 542)
Ps 45	(p550)
Ps 60	(p565)
Ps 62	(p567)
Ps 90	(p605)
Ps 115	(p636)
Ps 127	(p656)
Ps 148	(p675)

3. Form of Intercession – Prayers for Generosity

Let us pray for the Church and the world and let us thank God for His goodness.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith. So we pray for your church all over the world. For the extension of your kingdom overseas and at home and especially we thank you for your love and care for this church, all who minister and worship here and the surrounding community. We ask you to help us to be generous in our response to that love and care, generous with our commitment, with our time and with our abilities and all the gifts for which you have given us responsibility.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

We pray for all those who hold positions of authority and influence – in Government, in our Royal Family, in business, in our schools and hospitals; in the church. Help them to use their authority wisely and with humility. And we pray that we may be generous in spirit in our dealing and attitudes, whether we are in authority or subject to others. Especially, let us be slow to criticise and quick to praise the efforts and work of others.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

We pray, Lord, for our relationships with family, friends and neighbours and for their well being. Help us to be generous in our response to their needs. Help us to make time to listen and to show real understanding and sympathy. In silence we recall individuals who have special problems and concerns at this time and let us pray for wisdom in our response. (Silence)

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

We pray for those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit and for all those who care for them. We bring before you those known to us who are in special need just now... in silence let us commend them to God's care and protection. (Silence) And we pray that we will be generous in our responses to those known to us, who are in need of God's help, through our actions, our words, our prayers.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

And we thank you, Lord, for those who have gone before us, for their example, their influence on our lives and on our church. We remember those who have died recently. Let us remember now those other saints known to us. Help us to be generous in our continuing love and support for those who mourn and we pray Lord, that they may have confidence in your promise of eternal life through the loving sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

6. Scripture Passages for Reflection

Scripture passages for each day (it is suggested that each passage is dated).

Week One

Day 1	Psalm 67
Day 2	Ephesians 1: 3-14
Day 3	Philippians 1: 3-11
Day 4	Psalm 65
Day 5	John 3: 11-21
Day 6	Luke 15: 4-7
Day 7	Psalm 19

Week Two

Day 8	Revelation 4
Day 9	Hebrews 12: 1-4
Day 10	Psalm 100
Day 11	Isaiah 55: 1-5
Day 12	Isaiah 44: 1-5
Day 13	Psalm 148
Day 14	Psalm 103: 1-14

Week Three

Day 15	Colossians 1: 15-20
Day 16	Philippians 2: 1-11
Day 17	Romans 3: 21-31
Day 18	Luke 4: 16-24
Day 19	Luke 5: 17-26
Day 20	Luke 6: 20-23
Day 21	Luke 7: 11-17

Week Four

Day 22 Luke 8: 26-39
Day 23 Luke 9: 18-26
Day 24 Luke 12: 13-21
Day 25 Luke 14: 28-33
Day 26 Luke 16: 9-15
Day 27 Luke 16: 19-31
Day 28 Luke 18: 18-30

Week Five

Day 29 Luke 19: 1-10
Day 30 Acts 2: 42-47
Day 31 Acts 4: 32-35
Day 32 2 Corinthians 8: 1-15
Day 33 2 Corinthians 8: 16-9:5
Day 34 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15
Day 35 Philippians 4: 10-20

Week Six

Day 36 Mark 14: 1-11
Day 37 Mark 14: 12-25
Day 38 Mark 14: 26-42
Day 39 Mark 14: 43-65
Day 40 Mark 14: 66-72
Day 41 Mark 15: 1-15
Day 42 Mark 15: 16-32

Week Seven

Day 43 Mark 15: 33-47
Day 44 Mark 16: 1-8
Day 45 Luke 24: 13-35
Day 46 John 21: 1-14
Day 47 John 21: 15-23
Day 48 Acts 2: 1-13
Day 49 Acts 2: 37-41

Week Eight

Day 50 1 Samuel 1: 1-10
Day 51 Luke 1: 46-55
Day 52 1 Peter 1: 3-9
Day 53 Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7
Day 54 Song of Songs 8: 6-7
Day 55 1 Corinthians 15: 51-57
Day 56 Psalm 150