

4th November
A day for Roman Catholics and Anglicans
to pray for one another

Suggestions for an order of service

This order contains suggested texts for the following elements:

- ◆ *gathering, invocation or call to prayer*
- ◆ *a prayer of the day*
- ◆ *suggested scripture readings*
- ◆ *prayers of the people*
- ◆ *closing prayer of blessing*

To flesh these elements out and form a simple liturgy, consider asking one or two representatives from each tradition to work together to include some of the following ideas.

Adapting the texts:

- ◆ *adding local petitions to the prayers*
- ◆ *omitting or adapting some of the existing prayers*
- ◆ *adding a response to the litany*
- ◆ *choosing a reading from the life of a saint*

Adding music or drama

- ◆ *choosing a Taizé or Iona chant to include at various points*
- ◆ *choosing a hymn or song known to both traditions*
- ◆ *planning dance or a dramatic presentation of one or both bible readings*
- ◆ *deciding where to use shared silence*
- ◆ *preparing a simple ritual action to help proclaim the message of the liturgy*

Shaping the environment

- ◆ *bringing symbols of both traditions into the prayer space*
- ◆ *arranging furniture into a suitable configuration*
- ◆ *decorating candles that could continue to be used for on-going prayer in both churches*

Sharing the ministries

- ◆ *allocating speaking roles widely among the people gathered*
- ◆ *preparing musicians to lead simple singing*
- ◆ *asking someone from each tradition to tell a personal story or lead a reflection on scripture*

Texts

1. Gathering/Invocation

Gather us together, loving God, in company with your saints:

make us one in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Weave us together, loving God, in service to one another:

make us one in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Teach us together, loving God, to grow in truth and unity:

make us one in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Bless us together, loving God, with the gifts to be a faithful community:

make us one in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

2. Prayer of the Day

Holy Spirit,

you shine with beauty and power

through the lives of the saints:

Give Anglicans and Roman Catholics the grace of unity,

and knit us together

in the service of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

3. Ministry of the Word

Isaiah 58.6-11

Psalm 32

suggested response

Rejoice in the Lord, be glad and sing.

2 Corinthians 5.14-20 *or* Ephesians 4.1-6, 15-16

Luke 12.32-38

4. Prayers of the People

Holy Spirit, come and help us grow together

as Roman Catholics and Anglicans.

Pour out your gifts, and draw us together in faith, hope, and love.

When Jesus calls us to be his disciples,

help us to find our true family here

and to see one another through his eyes.

When we are working together to proclaim the Good News,

help us to recognise each other's gifts

and to build on each other's strengths.

When some of us are in trouble or in pain,
help us to watch over each other gently and patiently,
and to bear each other's burdens willingly.

When some of us are flourishing and fruitful,
help us to celebrate your bounty with joyful hearts,
and keep us free of both arrogance and envy.

When we find ourselves disagreeing or competing,
help us to make room for one another graciously
and to listen for your wisdom in the variety of voices.

When some of us stray or fade or turn away from the Church,
help us to understand how the whole community is diminished,
and to search and pray for all to be restored.

When we settle too easily for the comforts of a familiar community,
help us to see the needs of the people who do not yet belong,
and to invite them wholeheartedly to join us.

When we face a hostile or indifferent world,
help us to take pride in our Christian faith
and to encourage one another to persevere in our ministry.

When we are searching for ways to go forward together,
help us to trust that our future is in your hands,
and you will always provide for your Church.

5. Blessing prayer

Spirit of truth, bless us with eyes to see your grace
in one another's lives. **Amen.**

Spirit of peace, bless us with ears to hear your wisdom
on one another's lips. **Amen.**

Spirit of joy, bless us with strength to use your power
in one another's service. **Amen.**