

**Anglican  
Fellowship of  
Prayer (Canada)**

# **Prayer In The Calling Process**

**Prayer Vigil For Election of A  
Bishop  
or  
Calling of a Priest**

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada)  
G-27 (July 2017)

From time to time a Diocese elects a Bishop or a parish chooses a priest. This pamphlet provides suggestions and methods of providing the prayer support for the selection that is essential for bringing God into the deliberations and election.

The devotionals contained herein are based on material prepared by Canon Charles Guilbert at the request of Rt. Rev. William Swing, Bishop of California. Gratitude is expressed to Canon Guilbert and Bishop Swing for allowing AFP to use these devotionals.

## PRAYER VIGIL FOR ELECTION OF A BISHOP

For occasions when it is desired to carry out a Prayer Vigil for the election of a Bishop, the following procedure is offered:

1. For a one-month vigil immediately preceding the election, divide the number of congregations in the diocese by the number of days in the month, and that will tell you how many congregations you will want to participate in the vigil each day. Then, divide the diocese by congregations accordingly, so that you will know which congregations are to pray on which days.
2. Ask the appropriate authorities to prepare a cover letter to each congregation, asking their participation in the vigil. Each congregation would be requested to have at least one person in prayer from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on their assigned day, preferably having several people in the congregation sharing the prayer during the day.
3. Send the enclosed list of prayers with the cover letter to each congregation, or adapt them as appropriate to the local situation. Enclose a list of which congregations are assigned to each day of the vigil.

A SIX-WEEK CYCLE OF PRAYER AND BIBLE READING  
FOR ELECTION OF A BISHOP.

**The First Week:** Pray for the mission of the Church.

Everliving God, whose will is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ, inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hear the Word of God.

- |      |                |      |               |
|------|----------------|------|---------------|
| Sun. | Luke 24:44-49a | Thu. | Acts 5: 27-33 |
| Mon. | Acts 4:23-31   | Fri. | Acts 5:34-42  |
| Tue. | Acts 4:32-37   | Sat. | Acts 6: 1-7   |
| Wed. | Acts 5:12-26   |      |               |

Consider: The Bishop is to proclaim, interpret and witness to the Good News of God in Christ.

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**The Second Week:** Pray for the Diocese.

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese of \_\_\_\_\_ to a fellowship of faith. Bless him/her who is to be our Bishop, the other clergy and all the people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and heard, your sacraments faithfully administered and received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of Jesus, and grant that we may show your love to all, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the Word of God.

- |      |                |                                   |               |
|------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Sun. | Isaiah 42:1-9  | Wed.                              | Acts 8:1b-8   |
| Mon. | Acts 6:8-15    | Thu.                              | Acts 8: 9-24  |
| Tue. | Acts 7:51-8:1a | Fri.                              | Acts 9:10-20. |
|      | Sat.           | Acts 10:1-5, 25-31, 34-35, 44-48. |               |

Consider: The Bishop is called to guard the faith, unity and discipline of the Church.

**The Third Week:** Pray for the Synod of the Diocese.

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who will take counsel in the Synod of this Diocese for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honour and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the Word of God:

Sun.	I Cor. 3:4-9	Thu.	Acts 13:13- 35
Mon.	Acts 1:1-18	Fri.	Acts 13:26-33
Tue	Acts 11:19-26	Sat.	Acts 13:37-43
Wed.	Acts 12:24-13:5a		

Consider: The Bishop is called to celebrate and provide for the administration of the Sacraments of the New Covenant.

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**The Fourth Week:** Pray for the choice of fit persons for the ministry of the church.

O God, you led your holy apostles to ordain ministers in every place. Grant that your Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may choose suitable persons for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and may uphold them in their work for the extension of your kingdom; through Him who is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the Word of God:

Sun.	Heb 5:1-10	Thu.	Acts 15:7-21
Mon.	Acts 14:5-18	Fri.	Acts 15:22-31
Tue.	Acts 14:19-28	Sat.	Acts 16:1-10
Wed.	Acts 15:1-6		

Consider: The bishop is called to ordain priests and deacons, and join with other Bishops in the ordination and consecration of bishops.

**The Fifth Week:** Pray for the election of a Bishop for this Diocese.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift. Look graciously on your Church in this Diocese, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for us, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the Word of God

Sun.	I Tim. 3:1- 7	Thu.	Acts 18:1-8
Mon.	Acts 16: 11-15	Fri.	Acts 18:2 -28
Tue.	Acts 16: 16-34	Sat.	Acts 19:1-8
Wed.	Acts 17:15&22-18:1		

Consider: The Bishop is called to be in all things a faithful pastor and a wholesome example for the entire flock of Christ.

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**The Sixth Week:** Pray for the one who shall be chosen Bishop.

Almighty God, in your divine providence you have appointed various orders in your Church. Give your grace, we humbly pray, to him who will be called to the office and ministry of Bishop for your people in this Diocese; and so fill him/her with the truth of your doctrine and clothe him with holiness of life, that he may faithfully serve you, to the Glory of your great Name and for the benefit of your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the Word of God

Sun.	John 17:1-9, 18-21	Thu.	Acts 22:30, 23:6-11
Mon.	Acts 19:21, 20:6-12	Fri.	Acts 25:13-21
Tue.	Acts 20:16-27	Sat.	Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
Wed.	Acts 20:28-38.		

Consider: The Bishop is called to share with fellow Bishops in the leadership of the Church throughout the world.

A FIVE-WEEK CYCLE OF PRAYER AND BIBLE READING  
FOR ELECTION OF A BISHOP

SUNDAYS

Morning Prayer.

Almighty God, you have revealed to your Church your eternal Being of glorious majesty and perfect love as one God in a Trinity of Persons: Give us grace to continue steadfast in the confession of this faith and constant of our worship of you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; you who live and reign, One God now and forever. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Lord God, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared us a place in the New Jerusalem: Grant that we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection, may praise you in that City of which he is the Light, and where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Bible Readings

Week 1: Exod 3:11-15

Week 4: Rom 11:33-36

Week 2: Matt 28:18-20

Week 5: Eph 4:1-12

Week 3: John 1:1-12

Steadfast in witness constant in worship.

MONDAYS

Morning Prayer

Almighty and most merciful God, Grant that by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit we may be enlightened and strengthened for your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Most Holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgements, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

### Bible Reading

Week 1: Isa 11 :1-9

Week 4: I Cor 2:1-13

Week 2: Isa 61:1-3

Week 5: I Cor 12:4-14

Week 3: Luke 11:9-13

Spirit-filled and spirit-led.

## TUESDAYS

### Morning Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under His most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Evening Prayer

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Bible Readings

Week 1: Jer 23:1-6

Week 4: John 18:33-37

Week 2: Dan 7:9-14

Week 5: Col 1:11-20

Week 3: Luke 19:29-38.

A peace-maker, proclaiming the rule of Christ.

## WEDNESDAYS

### Morning Prayer

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of Him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Evening Prayer

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the fearful, the strength of those who labour, and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night; through Him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.



### Bible Readings

Week 1: Isa 9:2-4, 6-7

Week 4: I Tim 1:14-16

Week 2: Jer 31:7-14

Week 5: I John 4:1-11

Week 3: Luke I: 26- 38.

We in Christ and Christ in us.

## THURSDAYS

### Morning Prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, in a wonderful sacrament you have left us a memorial of your passion: Grant us, we pray, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of your redemption; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

### Evening Prayer

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand, the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

### Bible Readings

Week 1: Deut 8:2-3

Week 4: I Cor 11:23-29

Week 2: Luke 24:13-35

Week 5: Rev 19:1-16

Week 3: John 6:47-58.

Nourished and upheld by Word and Sacrament.

## FRIDAYS

### Morning Prayer

Almighty God, whose Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Evening Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. Amen.

### Bible Readings

Week 1: Isa 52:13-15, 53:10-12      Week 4: Phil 2:5-11

Week 2: I Cor 1:18-24                  Week 5: John 12:23-33

Week 3: Gal 6: 10-18

Intercessor for the people of God.

## SATURDAYS

### Morning Prayer

Grant, O Lord, to all who have been baptized into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, that, as we have put away the old life of sin, so we may be renewed in the Spirit of our minds, and live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Evening Prayer

O God, the source of eternal light: Shed forth your unending day upon us who watch for you, that our lips may praise you. our lives may bless you, and our worship on the morrow give you glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Bible Readings

Week 1: Ezek 36:24-28                  Week 4: Rom 6:3-11

Week 2: Mark 10: 35-45                  Week 5: II Cor 5: 17-20

Week 3: Luke 3:1-6

Intercessor for the people of God.

## PRAYERS

### **Prayer for the Church**

Gracious Father, we pray for thy holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth; in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Saviour. Amen.

### **For the Diocese**

O God, by your grace You have called us in this Diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless our Bishop(s) N. (and N) and other clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **For the Election of a Bishop or other Minister**

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts: Look graciously on your church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese(or rector for this parish) that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SOME FURTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR A PRAYER VIGIL

In addition to the prayers on page 10 of this pamphlet, the following may be appropriate:

- The Collects for Holy Days, Pg. 398 – 431 in the Book of Alternative Services (B.A.S.), or Pgs. 260 – 304 in the Book of Common Prayer (B.C.P.)
- The Prayers of the People and Occasional Prayers on Pgs. 675 ff in the B.A.S.
- Prayers and Thanksgivings on Pgs. 37 ff in the B.C.P.
- Psalms 13; 20:1-6; 23; 27:1-17; 145:14-22; and 146.
- Prayers for the Sick beginning on Pg. 476 of the B.C.P.

*For further information or pamphlets please contact your AFP  
Diocesan Representative or AFP Canada:*

[www.anglicanprayer.org](http://www.anglicanprayer.org)

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G-27-2017