

Prayer and Study Resources

Mission planning should be grounded in prayer, the scriptures and theological reflection. Below are some useful resources for this work.

Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer within your church might focus on what God is calling your church to be and to do, its understanding of the local community and how the church might serve it. You might want to pray for growth in spirituality, in service and prayer.

Include the mission planning process and plan (when it is developed) in intercessions and at other times. You may wish to invite people to create a prayer wall for the church during the process.

A prayer for mission could be written and placed in the pew bulletin every Sunday. The Anglican Church Southern Queensland uses the following prayer for mission:

*Living God,
creator, redeemer, strengthener;
enliven, guide and strengthen your Church in all you send us to do.
By your Holy Spirit enable us to grow –
in faith,
in service,
in generous giving;
and add to your Church new disciples
that your saving, reconciling, recreating work may go forward,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Prayer and Study Resources *(continued)*

Table 1: Prayer resources

SOURCE: MAP Toolkit – Anglican Diocese of Manchester (p. 73)

We pray for God’s grace. Lord, receive our praise **and hear our prayer.**

Lord God, through your grace we are your people: through your Son you have redeemed us; in your Spirit you have made us as your own. We pray for ... [new Christians, the Church].
Make our hearts respond to your love. Lord, receive our praise and hear our prayer.

We pray for... [the local community]. Make our lives bear witness to your glory in the world.
Lord, receive our praise **and hear our prayer.**

We pray for... [people in need, Christian service]. Make our wills eager to obey, and our hands ready to heal. Lord, receive our praise **and hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for... Make our voices one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Lord of life, hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy for ever. **Amen.**

Available at https://cofemanchester.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2017/11/MAP_Toolkit_Nov_2017_SA_edit.pdf

SOURCE: ABM

A litany for mission.

Available at https://www.abmission.org/data/resources/2015_/A_Liturgy_for_Mission.pdf

SOURCE: Mission Action Planning Prayer – Anglican Diocese of Sheffield

God of Mission
who alone brings growth to your Church
send your Holy Spirit to give
 vision to our planning
 wisdom to our actions
 and power to our witness.

Help your church to grow
 in numbers
 in spiritual commitment to you
 and in service to your world

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Available at <https://www.sheffield.anglican.org/moremappages>

Prayer and Study Resources *(continued)*

SOURCE: Mission Action Planning – Anglican Diocese of Glasgow

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, hear us as we pray for the mission of your Church: For the outpouring of your Spirit upon the Church, for your way to be known upon earth, and your salvation among all nations, we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For this diocese, and [Gregor] our Bishop, for grace and strength to lead us in mission, we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For grace to work together in the growth of your kingdom, we pray to you, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For grace to serve you, and preach the gospel to all people, we pray to you, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For grace to worship you in spirit and in truth, we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our Mission Action Plan, for [x] our Facilitator, and for all who help and guide us, we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

(In this section, choose some specific mission planning focus-points, and add particular petitions.)

For growth in our ministry to children and young people: [in particular for] we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For growth in prayer and the life of the spirit: [in particular for ...] we pray to you, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For growth in sound learning and faithful discipleship: [in particular for ...] we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For growth in numbers, so we may welcome everyone as Christ welcomes us:

[in particular for ...] we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For growth as leaders in mission, to use the gifts you have given us: [in particular for ...] we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For growth as witnesses to Christ in our community, to reach out to our neighbours with imagination and understanding: [in particular for ...] we pray to you, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our brothers and sisters in Christ in this region, for their own plans for action in mission:

[in particular for ...] we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our brothers and sisters who have gone before us, encouraged us by their example, strengthened us by their fellowship, and helped us by their prayers: we pray to you, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the courage, imagination, and energy to continue on the road of mission in this, our journey of faith: [in particular for ...] we pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Spirit of our Loving God, in your mercy and compassion inspire, encourage and empower us to live and work together as a Diocese, to allow your mission for us to take flesh through Jesus Christ our Living and Eternal Lord. **Amen.**

Available at <https://glasgow.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Mission-Action-Plan-Prayers-of-the-People.pdf>

Prayer and Study Resources *(continued)*

SOURCE: Parish Strategic Planning – Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

- Lord Jesus Christ, our God, You have said, “Apart from Me you can do nothing.” In faith we embrace Your words, Lord, and we entreat Your goodness. Help us to carry out the work we are about to begin and to bring it to completion. To You do we give glory, to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
- Almighty God, our Help and Refuge, who knows that we can do nothing right without Your guidance and help; direct us by Your wisdom and power, that we may accomplish this task and whatever we do according to Your divine will, so that it may be beneficial to us and others, and to the glory of Your Holy Name. **Amen.**
- Our Lord and Savior, You became man and labored with Your hands until the time of Your ministry. Bless us as we begin this work. Help us to bring it to completion. Lord, enlighten our minds and strengthen our bodies, that we may accomplish our task according to Your will. Guide us to bring about works of goodness to Your service and glory. **Amen.**
- Steer the ship of our life, good Lord, to your own quiet harbor, where we can be safe from the storms of sin and conflict. Show us the course we should take. **Amen.**
- Renew in us the gift of discernment, so that we can always see the right direction in which we should go. And give us the strength and the courage to choose the right course, even when the sea is rough and the waves are high, in Your name we shall find comfort and peace. **Amen.**
- Christ, the true light, who enlightens and sanctifies every person coming into the world, let the light of Your countenance shine upon us that we may see Your unapproachable light; and guide our steps in the way of Your commandments, through the intercessions of Your all-holy Mother and of all the Saints. **Amen.**

Available at http://sfstrategicplan.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/parish_strategic_planning_guidebook_print.pdf

SOURCE: Anglican Communion

A service of the word centred on the *Five Marks of Mission*.

Available at <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/98405/97-Marks-of-Mission.pdf>

SOURCE: RCCDSB Religious Education & Family Life Resource Office, USA

A prayer service for strategic planning by Catholic School Boards, which could be adapted.

Available at <http://religiouseducation.rccdsb.edu.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/26/2010/06/PlanningtheRoadAhead.pdf>

Prayer and Study Resources *(continued)*

SOURCE: Prayer for Mission – Catholic Diocese of Auckland

*Gracious and merciful God,
we pray that through the Holy Spirit
we may all hear your call to mission
and seek a deeper relationship with your Son, Jesus.*

*We pray
that our plan “Fit For Mission” will renew our diocese,
inspiring all Catholics to “go forth and make disciples of all nations” and transform society
through the power of the Gospel.*

*We pray
for all members of the Church,
that we heed the words of Christ
—“do not be afraid”—
and strengthened by the Holy Spirit’s gift of courage,
give witness to the Gospel and share our faith with others.*

*We pray
that we may become
like the father of the prodigal son
—filled with compassion for our missing brothers and sisters—
and run to embrace them upon their return.*

*We pray
that all people
yearning to know Christ and the Church
may encounter him through the faithful
who witness to his love in their lives.*

*We pray
that we may learn to use modern means of communication
to spread the good news, to reach out
and touch those who tweet and twitter and email and text.
We ask that you inspire us to embrace the new media in your name.*

*Loving God, our Creator,
strengthen us to become witnesses
to the saving grace of your Son,
Jesus, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.*

Amen.

Available at <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/mission-evangelisation/pastoral-planning/liturgy-resources/>

Prayer and Study Resources *(continued)*

SOURCE: Prayers based on the *Marks of Mission* – The Very Rev'd Dr Iain Luke

Lord Jesus Christ, let your presence fill our hearts and overflow in our actions, that we may proclaim the good news of your Kingdom. Let your glory fill this place, **Let your glory fill this world.**

Lord, fill us with your welcoming Spirit of truth, that we may faithfully teach, baptize and nurture those who come to believe in you. Let your glory fill this place, **Let your glory fill this world.**

Lord, as you came to serve and not to be served, fill us with the compassion and insight to respond to human need by loving service. Let your glory fill this place, **Let your glory fill this world.**

Lord, let the fire of your goodness and justice burn into us and through us, that we may seek to transform the unjust structures of society. Let your glory fill this place, **Let your glory fill this world.**

Lord, as you come into our lives to redeem all that is good, guide us in our turn to renew and sustain the life of your creation. Let your glory fill this place, **Let your glory fill this world.**

Almighty God, in our baptism you adopted us for your own. Quicken, we pray, your Spirit within us, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Available at

<https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Prayers-Based-on-Marks-of-Mission.pdf>

SOURCE: St Louis University Prayer Book

Heavenly Father, we come to you today asking for your guidance, wisdom, and support as we begin this meeting. Help us to engage in meaningful discussion; allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of community. Fill us with your grace, Lord God, as we make decisions that might affect the students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends of Saint Louis University. And continue to remind us that all that we do here today, all that we accomplish, is for the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of You, and for the service of humanity. We ask these things in your name, **Amen.**

Available at <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/5080/prayer-before-a-meeting>

SOURCE: Catholic School Parents WA

Prayers for Plenary Council, which could be adapted.

Available at <http://www.pff.wa.edu.au/prayers-for-meetings>

Prayer and Study Resources *(continued)*

SOURCE: Veronica Hongaya

In the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

We praise and glorify You oh Lord. We give back to You all the blessings that unfold to us this morning. Thank You God for the gift of Life, for the gift of work and for our health and peace of mind.

Thank You for giving us this day, for gathering us here today in this nice place for our planning session. Lord let this venue inspire us to devise strategic plans that could help improve our company. Grant us Lord a clear vision that we may be able to foresee the right recourse to the demands of the future.

Share to us oh Lord a ray of Your brilliance and wisdom that would guide us to an interactive and productive session. Send Oh God Your Holy Spirit and wrap us with your love to carry us through the challenges of day.

All these we ask through the Holy and Mighty name of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, **Amen.**

Available at <https://www.scribd.com/doc/72475434/Prayer-for-Strategic-Planning>

Prayer and Study Resources *(continued)*

Preaching

Preaching and teaching can be important to help church members understand where mission planning fits into the life of the Christian community and Anglican Church. The resources below may provide some ideas about what direction to take.

Table 2: Preaching resources

SOURCE: Anglican Diocese of Derby
A summary of the <i>Five Marks of Mission</i> with relevant suggestions for preaching and bible study on each theme.
Available at http://derby.anglican.org/en/our-mission/mission-action-plans-map/stage-1-explore/download/2271_823b15cfd8e9f89fecb04e9d0040ecd2.html
SOURCE: Anglican Diocese of Manchester
Tool 8a-8h. Scripture and themes suitable for a preaching series or bible study.
Available at https://www.manchester.anglican.org/documents/mission-action-planning-toolkit/
SOURCE: Olem Blog
Sermons on passages exploring mission and the Five Marks. (Brief thematic overviews can be found on the website.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love God — 1 John 4:7-17. • Tell the Good News — Mark 1:1-8. • Teaching one another — Deuteronomy 6:4-9. • Tend to others — Mark 10:46-52. • Transform society — Amos 5:9-15, 21-24. • Treasure God's creation — Luke 19:28-40 (Palm Sunday) or Romans 8:18-25.
Available at https://0lem.wordpress.com/2016/02/19/5marks-sermons/
SOURCE: Ed Stetzer
Ten scripture texts on God's Mission.
Available at https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2010/january/ten-scripture-texts-on-gods-mission.html

Prayer and Study Resources *(continued)*

Bible Study Resources

Encouraging church members to study mission through Bible study groups may deepen their understanding and commitment to the mission planning process.

Table 3: Bible study resources

SOURCE: CMS
A large range of Bible studies on mission including high quality video content.
Available at https://churchmissionsociety.org/resources-cms-uk-publications/mission
SOURCE: United Society Partners in the Gospel
A Heart for Mission — A high quality and in depth study of the <i>Five Marks of Mission</i> produced in conjunction with the Anglican Diocese of Myanmar.
Available at https://www.uspg.org.uk/docstore/173.pdf
SOURCE: ABM
Living <i>Marks of Mission</i> — a high quality and in depth study on the <i>Five Marks of Mission</i> .
Available at https://www.abmission.org/data/Advocacy/Marks_of_Mission_series_RGB.pdf
SOURCE: ABM
A Lenten Bible study on mission.
Available at https://www.abmission.org/data/Lent/2015/Bible_Studies_Lent.docx
SOURCE: Blog — Revvin' it up
A five week study on the <i>Five Marks of Mission</i> . Could also be used as the basis of a preaching series.
Available at https://revvinitup.com/5-marks-of-mission-bible-study/
SOURCE: Anglican Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich
A resource for small groups to explore each Mark of Mission.
Available at http://www.wdanetwork.org.uk/dioceses/stedsresources/Five%20Marks%20of%20Mission.doc

Prayer and Study Resources *(continued)*

SOURCE: Biblical Association for the Church of Ireland

A Lenten Study on the *Five Marks of Mission*.

Available at https://bibliahibernica.files.wordpress.com/2018/01/2018_lenten_study_baci.pdf

SOURCE: OMF International

A Bible study to encourage thinking about cross-cultural (local or otherwise) mission.

Available at <https://omf.org/resources-for-mission/missionbiblestudies/>

SOURCE: The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

An in depth Bible study on the mission of God.

Available at <http://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=963>