

# MASS INTENTIONS

By making an offering for a particular Mass the faithful, by parting with something that is their own, associate themselves more intimately with Christ who offers himself in the sacred Host, and obtain thereby more abundant fruits. The priest who accepts the stipend will offer his private prayer for the particular intention requested.

The particular intention may be for someone who has died recently or who died longer ago but who you wish to pray for, for example on the anniversary of their death. One of the particular charges to the Church and her members is to pray for the dead, entrusting them to the mercy of God. The intention may also be for the living: in thanksgiving for this or that joyful occasion, a birthday, a wedding anniversary, success in exams for example, or praying for their well being at time of illness or distress.

## **A private intention at a public Mass**

Every Mass is offered for the whole Church and for the salvation of the world. The practice of associating a particular private intention with a particular Mass should not conflict with that public and universal dimension of the Mass.

In accepting a stipend for a particular intention the priest accepts that intention as his private intention at that Mass. His only obligation is to pray for that intention, privately, during the Mass.

However, it is the practice in this parish for the details of the priests' intentions for the week to be displayed at the back of the church, for the convenience of donors and of the broader community who will very often wish to associate themselves with a particular intention and indeed come to take part in the celebration of a particular Mass. (See below: **Will you be present...**)

In this parish it is the practice of the priests of the parish to mention the name of the deceased for whom they pray during the Eucharistic Prayer, but not generally at the beginning of Mass.

## **At which Mass will the intention be remembered?**

It is the practice in our parish to assign intentions to particular days when this is requested and possible - but sometimes they have to be moved because for example of a funeral. We do appreciate the inconvenience of this and do not transfer intentions lightly. Intentions for the week are posted in the porch of the parish church and convent chapel.

## **Will you be present at the Mass?**

However if on a particular occasion an anniversary is being marked, and members of the family and friends are gathered, you are urged to please come to the sacristy before the Mass to let the priest know. He will then be pleased to welcome those present in the introductory words and mention the occasion - even should he be required to remember another particular 'private' intention at that Mass.

## **What stipend should be offered?**

The offering of a stipend for a particular Mass is one of the ways Catholics may contribute to the upkeep of the clergy, and the Church in general. Each day if a priest of the parish celebrates a Mass for which a particular stipend has been offered, that stipend goes into the parish account to go toward his monthly allowance, reducing the direct cost to the parish. Stipends for any further masses he may celebrate are required to be sent to support other particular works in the diocese - for example the Seminary.

The diocese has agreed a stipend of £10 for Masses for the Holy Souls. The same stipend is suggested for other Masses also, but sometimes people need to offer less and sometimes they wish to offer more. This figure is quoted only for information and guidance.