

**A MANUAL OF FAMILY PRAYERS  
FOR EVERY DAY IN THE WEEK:  
WITH SPECIAL FORMS FOR THE  
PRINCIPAL FASTS AND FESTIVALS:  
FROM AUTHORISED SOURCES**

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A Manual of Family Prayers for Every Day in the Week: With Special Forms for the Principal Fasts and Festivals: From Authorised Sources by J. J. Plumer

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**J. J. PLUMER**

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A MANUAL  
OF  
FAMILY PRAYERS

FOR  
EVERY DAY IN THE WEEK;

WITH SPECIAL FORMS FOR

*The Principal Fasts and Festivals:*

FROM AUTHORISED SOURCES.

IN WHICH IS INCLUDED

*The greater part of the Psalter,*

AND PRACTICAL PORTIONS OF

*Holy Scripture,*

DIVIDED INTO SHORT SECTIONS FOR DAILY READING.

WITH

AN APPENDIX.



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BALLIOL COLLEGE, OXFORD.



"O Lord, pour out Thy fury upon the heathen that know Thee not, and upon the families that call not on Thy name."—*Jerem. x. 25.*

"The curse of the Lord is in the house of the wicked: but He bleareth the habitation of the just."—*Psa. lii. 32.*

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE present manual of family devotions has been drawn up in order to assist in supplying wants now strongly felt amongst a very numerous class, by providing :

First.—Forms of prayer, which, without interfering, but in a few instances, with the Daily Service of our own Liturgy, should yet possess the approval of authority for their recommendation and support. Objections have been made of late, by most thinking persons, that Family Prayers, selected entirely from our own authoritative formularies, furnish but a bad substitute for the Daily Service, which ought itself to be more exclusively reserved for the public worship of the sanctuary.

Secondly.—An uniform character and even sameness, not only in the general framework of the prayers from day to day, but also in the prayers themselves, except where changes are needed to suit particular days and seasons; that thus, at a reverent distance and after the example of the Church, we may imitate in spirit the unvarying worship of the blessed seraphim, who, we know, are ever engaged in one ceaseless song, continually crying, “ Holy, holy,” before the throne of God.

Thirdly.—Special forms of prayer for the principal Fasts and

Festivals; it being, surely, most important that people's attention should be directed more frequently and pointedly than is customary to the real meaning and right observance of those great occasions. This arrangement, together with others for the sake of marking particular week-days, will, it is hoped, sufficiently secure that variety of expression in the prayers, which is so pleasing to many minds, without at the same time detracting from the before-mentioned more important consideration.

Fourthly.—Opportunity for all the members of the household to join in united worship with their head, so as to make the petitions which he offers equally their own. In order to attain this advantage, the Litany form for confessions, petitions, and intercessions, has been generally adopted throughout the series; and in which the regularly recurring answers, such as, "Lord, have mercy on us," "Deliver us, O Lord," they can as easily repeat with him, as the usual response of "Amen," after the blessing or Lord's Prayer.

Fifthly, and lastly.—A sufficient number of Psalms and select passages from the practical parts of Scripture, ready at hand for every-day reading, so that something approaching to a complete service may be available for the use of those families who, from various causes, are precluded from attending the daily prayers at church. In some families it is usual to read a Psalm or chapter of the Bible, or both, either before or in the course of the prayers. But it frequently happens, especially in readings from the Bible, that whole chapters of great length are read through, merely because they are so divided, without any regard to the subjects treated of in them. Thus are people's minds fatigued and distracted by the variety of totally different, and often awfully sacred, subjects, which are

all at once thrust upon their attention. Both the Psalms and selections from Holy Scripture, in the present work, have, to obviate this evil, been classed as briefly as could be, under separate heads; and a certain regular order of subject has been observed, which, it is hoped, may prove useful for the sake of reference, and, perhaps, also in other ways besides. The Psalms, as well as the Scripture selections, have in all cases been given at length, and not in the form of mere references, from a conviction, that if the latter plan had been adopted, they would seldom have been read at all.

It may perhaps be objected, that the Psalms and Lessons, together with the Prayers following, make too long a service. But it will be found on trial that the time occupied by the whole will generally not exceed five or six, if, occasionally, ten, minutes. Should, however, some heads of families, from any unavoidable cause, be compelled to omit the first part of the service, the Prayers alone may be read, commencing with the Confession and Litany, and which will then engage them for so small a portion of the day as they cannot possibly think of grudging in this their bounden morning and evening sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God.

The Compiler is well aware how inadequately he has performed the task which he has presumed to undertake; and it is only because he has not yet met with any previous publication in which the designs above stated, and which appear to him important, have been wholly carried out, that he has been induced to make the attempt himself, which he would gladly have left to be executed by abler hands. When, however, he considers the sources from which the *Family Prayers*, now submitted to the public, have been drawn, he is not altogether without hope, that they may help to throw some additional