

**PRAYERS FOR ALL
OCCASIONS:
COMPANION TO
PRAYERS NEW AND OLD**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649744817

Prayers for all occasions: companion to Prayers new and old by Forward Movement Publications

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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To J. H.

with all good wishes
from

F. D. H.

Author & Editor.

PRAYERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

Foreword

There is widespread uneasiness and dissatisfaction among Christian people in respect of their prayers. Some have even given up praying altogether because they "get nothing out of it"; and many would be ready to confess that they do not get the help from their prayers they would like to get—that they feel they ought to get. Prayer with them is a habit rather than a recognized and proved means of grace.

The reasons for this are various, but there is one in particular which is undoubtedly common. Here is a personal note from one who had found out where his own trouble lay.

I knew that my prayer life was not what it should be. My prayers were loose, haphazard, unarranged. More often than not, I felt the need of forgiveness for the casualness and insincerity of my praying. And then one day I found where the trouble lay. It was just that I was not going the right way about it. My prayers were not properly ordered: I had not given any thought to them before I got on my knees. I was not making of my prayers a solemn and deliberate act of worship.

There are, of course, times in everyone's life when prayer cannot wait to be organized: moments when prayer is the anguished utterance of a breaking heart, or the formless cry of the soul for grace and courage to live through the next twenty-four hours. No plan of prayer will serve then. But normally people do need a plan, a method of devotion; they need to have a clear idea both of what they are going to pray for and of what order their prayers will follow: what shall come first, and so forth. They also need prayers ready to hand from which they can make a sort of cycle of prayer for a week or a month, so they will not be repeating the same prayers day after day until they have become monotonous, and perhaps unreal.

It is hoped that this book of *Prayers For All Occasions* will help to meet this personal need, and also provide material for use in prayer groups and occasional evening services in Church.

As a help to private prayer we offer on page 9 a suggested plan for morning and evening devotions which covers fairly well the elements of which such prayers should be composed. But no plan can be satisfactory unless preparation is made beforehand; and for the profitable use of the prayers in this book, the pages should first be found on which those we want to use are—for personal graces, for the sick, for missions, etc. In this way, we can make our prayers both ordered and real.

The *Amen* is used in this book only when the prayers are intended for corporate use. It is a liturgical ending and has no place in private prayer. We have also omitted the usual Christian ending—*through Jesus Christ our Lord*—from most of the private prayers, since it is sufficient if this is said at the close of the act of devotion.

This book is issued with the approval of the Presiding Bishop.

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