

## How to write a collect

### A collect is a kind of prayer.

Why write one down? Well, to write down our prayers can be powerful.

When we write down prayers, we invite the Holy Spirit to get involved in what we are saying to him and create something we can go back to.

They don't have the immediacy or flexibility of spontaneous prayers, so written-down prayers aren't the whole package. But they can play a helpful role in our prayer life.

**Here is a simple guide to writing a collect** (which is a prayer that talks about our worship of God and our intentions towards him, too).

- 1) Addressing or naming God (*for example: Almighty God*)
- 2) Extending the first bit by referring to something about God or acknowledging more of God's character (*for example: to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden*)
- 3) The core of the prayer – a direct request to God (*for example: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit*)
- 4) The intention – the thing you hope to be the result of the prayer being answered (*for example: that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name*)
- 5) Doxology or conclusion and an Amen (*for example: through Christ our Lord. Amen.*)