

Prayer of the Month • November 2011

O Lord, grant me to greet the coming day in peace. Help me in all things to rely on your holy will. In every hour of the day reveal your will to me. Bless my dealings with all who surround me. Teach me to treat all that comes to me throughout the day with peace of soul, and with firm conviction that your will governs us all. In all my deeds and words guide my thoughts and feelings. In unforeseen events let me not forget that all are sent by you. Teach me to act firmly and wisely, without embittering and embarrassing others. Give me strength to bear the fatigue of your coming day with all that it shall bring. Direct my will, teach me to pray, pray yourself in me.

Metropolitan Philaret, 1782–1867

One of the main subjects of prayer for Christians is that of peace – whether for the world, for others, or for ourselves. This is a prayer very much for ourselves: for tranquility of soul, for attentiveness to God’s will, for stability of mind, and for balance in our dealings through each day. It has the feel of a prayer that has been compiled, developed, and built up over time, as the composer of it has thought of further petitions to include. It has a mature, rounded feel, and contains plenty of food for reflection through the day. It is definitely a prayer to memorise and to recall and recite at the beginning of each day.

Metropolitan Philaret (Vassily Mikhailovich Drozdov) of Moscow and Kolomna, was the most important figure in the Russian Orthodox Church from his appointment as Metropolitan in 1826 until his death in 1867. He was born in Kolomna on 26 December 1782, into the family of a deacon who later became a priest. He studied at Kolomna and Moscow, and, after graduating became a professor of Greek and Hebrew. In 1808 he became a tonsured monk with the name of Philaret. In 1809 he became Dean of the St. Alexander Nevsky Theological School in St. Petersburg, and in 1812 Rector at the St Petersburg Theological Academy. In 1816 he became, additionally, abbot of the Novospassky Monastery in Moscow. Becoming Bishop in 1818, and Archbishop in 1821, he was appointed Metropolitan in 1826. An outstanding scholar, Philaret was also very influential in Russian political life, an expert in church history and canon law, and a notable preacher. He drew up many legislative documents for the Russian Empire, and helped to organise a translation of the Bible into Russian. He died on 1 December 1867. He was canonised in 1994, with a feast day of 19 November.



Colin Lunt