

## *Notes on Suitable Prefaces*

These texts were discovered in the English translation of the Altar Book of the Old Catholic Church in Germany, and have been edited to render their use of English more consistent with *Common Worship*. In most prefaces a customary English opening replaces the literal translation.

Many Armed Forces Chaplains serving in British Forces Germany have had contact with this, and other Churches of the Anglican Communion, which form part of the Treaty of Utrecht.

The full text of this book is at [www.altkatholisch.de/altarbook/](http://www.altkatholisch.de/altarbook/)

These texts are not *authorised* by the Church of England; but may be judged *suitable* by the president; and will be found acceptable to a broad range of Anglicans.. The Prefaces of Ordinary time in this collection will usefully augment the provisions of *Common Worship*. Mark Eary of *Praxis* has offered this opinion, which I quote from a posting on *Christians on the Internet*. [www.coin.org.uk](http://www.coin.org.uk):

"When **Promise of His Glory** was being prepared the legal advice was that proper prefaces were not required to be authorised, and could be *commended*. On that basis, I was certainly taught that a president could *make up* or *discover* other suitable proper prefaces under Canon B5. It is this canon that covers the provision of *commended* texts - they are simply texts commended by the house of bishops as being, in their opinion, *reverent and seemly and not contrary to the doctrine of the Church of England in any essential matter*. It is this that also made the prefaces in **Enriching the Christian Year** (not even *commended* but pure private enterprise) usable.

I understand that legal (and, indeed, liturgical) opinion is not unanimous on this, and this may explain why the very permissive rubric in Prayer E was made *safer* by mentioning prefaces and giving page numbers without quite going as far as saying nothing else may be used. However, having historically treated prefaces as *not* needing authorisation, it is hard to retreat from this position. Hence, Times and Seasons will make the same assumption."

## *Suitable Prefaces*

### **Preface of Advent I** (*Until 16 December*)

It is indeed right and good  
to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For you promised him as Saviour to lost humanity.  
His truth shines for those who seek,  
his power strengthens the weak,  
his mercy brings forgiveness to sinners.  
For he is the Saviour of the world  
whom you sent because of your faithfulness.

Therefore we praise you,  
joining our voices with the cherubim and seraphim  
and all the choirs of angels,  
and sing the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Preface of Advent II** (*From 17 December*)

It is indeed right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For the day of redemption is shining,  
and the time of our salvation is at hand,  
as the saviour comes, who is Christ the Lord.

Through him we praise the work of your love,  
joining the choirs of angels, to proclaim your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Preface of Christmas I**

It is indeed right,  
our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For he, your eternal Word, became human.  
You, O God, have come to us in visible form in him,  
and you kindle in us the love for what no eye has ever seen.

Therefore we praise you with all the choirs of angels  
and join all Christians to proclaim your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Preface of Christmas II**

It is indeed right,  
our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For the mystery of his birth is great:  
(Today) he, the invisible God,  
appeared in visible form as a human.  
Born of you before all ages,  
he subjected himself to the laws of time.  
Everything has been recreated in him.  
He heals the wounds of all creation,  
lifts up what had fallen,  
and calls us into the kingdom of your peace.

Therefore heaven and earth,  
angels and humans praise you and proclaim your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Of the Departed I**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, holy and immortal God,  
who calls us into life  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

In him shines the hope that we will rise in glory.  
Even burdened by the fate of sure death,  
we are comforted by the promise of future immortality.  
For your faithful, O God, life will be changed, not taken.  
And when the tent of our pilgrimage on earth decays,  
an eternal home is prepared for us in heaven.

Therefore we join the angels and those made perfect  
in singing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Of the Departed II**

Father all-powerful and ever-living God,  
we do well always and everywhere  
to give you thanks and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord dead.  
For he is the salvation of the world,  
the life of the mortals,  
the resurrection of the dead.

Through him heaven and earth,  
angels and humans bless you,  
joining their voices in singing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **The Turn of the Year, Anniversaries and Jubilees**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, Lord of time, holy and eternal God.

We thank you that in your loving-kindness,  
you have led us through the years  
and receive us anew into the communion of your love  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore we bless you with all your creation  
and sing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Marriage**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, holy and immortal God,  
who called us into life  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For you created us humans in your image  
and gave us the gift of love.

You join man and woman in matrimony  
to a holy fellowship in Christ  
and promise your blessing to their covenant.

Therefore we bless you, joining the choirs of heaven  
and all Christians on earth in singing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Preface of The Epiphany**

It is indeed right,  
our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For (today) you unveil the mystery of our salvation,  
(today) you reveal the light to the nations,  
Jesus Christ, your Son.

He has appeared on earth as a mortal  
and has created us anew  
in the splendour of his divine life.

Therefore we join all angels and saints  
in proclaiming the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Preface of the Baptism of Jesus**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For at the baptism in the Jordan  
you reveal the mystery of your Son by wonderful signs:  
the voice from heaven proclaims him your beloved Son  
who has appeared on earth  
as your eternal Word living among humans.  
The Spirit alights on him and testifies him to be your servant  
whom you have anointed  
to bring the good news of joy to the poor.

Therefore we join the angels and archangels,  
the thrones and powers  
and all the throngs of heaven in praising your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Preface of the Wedding at Cana**

It is indeed right,  
our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

He did the first of his signs at the wedding at Cana;  
in the water become wine he shows us your power to save.  
He gives us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet  
and reveals himself to be the messiah whom you have sent.

Therefore we praise you full of joy  
and join heaven and earth proclaiming your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Preface of Lent I**

We thank you, holy Father,  
for in these forty days of penitence  
you call us anew to follow your Son,  
that with him we might resist the evil  
and fulfil his commandment of love.

You strengthen our trust in your closeness,  
you set us free from the powers of everyday life,  
you open our hand for the needs of the poor.

In this way you lead us with pure hearts to the joy of Easter  
and prepare us to meet your risen Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through him we praise your mercy  
and join the throngs of angels  
and all those redeemed in singing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Thanksgiving for the Harvest**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, holy and eternal God,  
who called all things into life  
through Jesus Christ your living Word.

We thank you for the fruits of our labour  
and for the harvest of this year.

We thank you for keeping our lives in your loving-kindness.

We join the choirs of angels and saints  
in singing with great joy the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Witnesses of Faith**

Father all-powerful and ever-living God,  
we do well always and everywhere  
to give you thanks and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

He built his church  
through the ministry of prophets and apostles,  
of martyrs and evangelists.  
They glorified his name by the witness of their lives.  
Therefore we bless you, joining the choirs in heaven  
and all Christians on earth  
in singing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Unity of Christians**

Father all-powerful and ever-living God,  
we do well always and everywhere  
to give you thanks and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In him you led us to the knowledge of truth  
and made us members of his body  
through one faith and one baptism.  
Through him you poured out your Holy Spirit on all the peoples  
that he might do great things with his gifts.  
He lives in the hearts of the faithful,  
he fills and guides the whole church  
and works for unity in Christ.

Therefore we bless your mercy now and forever,  
joining the choirs of angels in singing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Preface of Lent II**

We praise you, all-merciful, eternal God,  
in this time of the forty days, through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
He calls us to turn around and to believe the gospel.  
He himself is your word, his death is our life.

Through him we praise your mercy  
and join the throngs of angels  
and those who live with you in joyfully singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Preface of the Passion of the Lord I**

We thank you, Father in heaven,  
and praise you through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
He has loved us and given himself to death for us.  
He has died for all that we might not perish but have eternal life.  
Through him all those you redeemed magnify you  
and join the choirs of angels to sing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Preface of the Passion of the Lord II**

*also on Palm Sunday and on the Feast of the Holy Cross*

It is indeed right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
He was lifted up from the earth to the cross  
to draw all people to himself.  
Through his passion and his death  
he became the author of salvation for all creation.  
Therefore we praise you with all angels and saints  
and proclaim your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Preface of Maundy Thursday**

*also on Corpus Christi Day*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father.

For our Lord Jesus Christ  
has instituted this celebration as the memorial of his love,  
his death and his incorruptible life.  
He has given us a sign of the new and everlasting covenant  
and promised that it would find its fulfilment in the coming  
kingdom.

Therefore we praise you with your angels and saints  
and proclaim your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Preface of Easter I**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father,  
but chiefly to celebrate this night (this day)  
as our paschal lamb has been sacrificed,  
even, Jesus Christ our Lord.

For he is the true lamb who has taken away the sin of the world.  
By his death he destroyed death,  
and by his resurrection he created life anew.

Therefore in this night (day)  
all the world rejoices in paschal joy,  
therefore the company of heaven  
and the choirs of angels magnify you,  
singing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **The Blessed Virgin Mary**

Father all-powerful and ever-living God,  
we do well always and everywhere  
to give you thanks and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You chose Mary from among all humans  
and blessed her before all women.

The dawn of salvation shines in her.  
She bore Christ, the sun of righteousness.

Through him we bless your mercy now and forever,  
joining the choirs of angels and saints  
in singing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Apostles**

Father all-powerful and ever-living God,  
we do well always and everywhere  
to give you thanks and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

After his resurrection he sent his apostles  
to proclaim the good news  
and to teach all peoples.

He promised to be present all the days  
until the end of time.

Therefore we magnify your holy name,  
joining the angels and saints and all Christians  
in singing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

**All Saints 1 November**

*also at special memorials of saints*

Father all-powerful and ever-living God,  
we do well always and everywhere  
to give you thanks and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For today we see your holy city,  
our home, the heavenly Jerusalem,  
where our sisters and brothers  
who have been brought to perfection praise you forever.  
On our way in faith we look to your city of peace  
and walk to the end of your promise with confidence.  
Therefore we magnify you in the fellowship of your saints,  
joining the choirs of angels in singing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

**At the Anniversary of the Dedication of a Church**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
whom heaven and earth cannot contain.

For your glory this house was built  
in which you gather your pilgrim church  
to show her an image of your presence  
and to give the grace of your communion.  
You build a temple for yourself from living stones,  
and from all places you call us to be your people  
and join us to the body of your Son.  
Here you direct our eyes to the heavenly Jerusalem  
and give us the hope to behold your everlasting peace.

Therefore we praise you in your church,  
joining the choirs of angels and saints  
in singing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

**Preface of Easter II**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father,  
but chiefly to celebrate this night (this day)  
as our paschal lamb has been sacrificed,  
even, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The old is passed,  
the fallen world redeemed,  
life in Christ renewed.

Therefore we praise you in the joy of Easter  
and join the choirs of angels,  
singing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

**Preface of the Good Shepherd**

*also on Sundays throughout the year*

It is indeed right,  
our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In him you have shown yourself  
to be the Father of all peoples  
and accepted us as your beloved children.  
In his resurrection you have overcome the power of death  
and also called us to life eternal.

Your Son, the Good Shepherd,  
nourishes us through the meal of his love  
and fills us with his Spirit  
that we might attain the goal of our lives.

Therefore we praise you with all your creation,  
singing in the joy of Easter:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Preface of Ascension**

It is indeed right and good,  
our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ the King of glory.

After his resurrection he appeared to his disciples.  
You raised him to your right hand before their eyes  
that he may raise us to be your children and heirs of your glory.  
Therefore all the world rejoices (today) in paschal joy,  
and we join the praise of the angels and the company of heaven,  
singing with one voice:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Between Ascension and Pentecost**

*also at confirmation services in Eastertide*

It is indeed right and good,  
our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ the King of glory.

Risen from the dead,  
he sent the Holy Spirit to his disciples,  
his life in abundance,  
his salvation and his peace.

Through him you give us the breath of life  
which is your Spirit in whom we call you,  
"Abba, Father".

Therefore we praise you in paschal joy  
and join the praise of heaven  
and all Christians everywhere on earth:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **The Transfiguration of the Lord 6 August**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

In him you have shone upon us  
to give the light of the knowledge of your glory in his face.

Therefore we magnify you,  
joining the choirs of angels and saints  
in singing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Michael and All Angels 29 September**

Father all-powerful and ever-living God,  
we do well always and everywhere  
to give you thanks and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You send your heavenly messengers to repel the powers of  
darkness;  
you preserve your church through the ministry of your angels.  
We join our voices with theirs, confessing without end:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**



**Annunciation of the Lord 25 March**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For the angel (today) brought tidings to Mary,  
and she accepted your word with faith in her heart.

She conceived your eternal Word  
through the power of the Holy Spirit;  
He took flesh in her womb to live among us mortals.  
You fulfilled your promise to Israel  
and sent He whom the peoples await,  
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through him we bless your mercy,  
joining the choirs of angels in singing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

**John the Baptist 24 June**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

John the Baptist prepared his way and proclaimed  
that this is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

Therefore we raise our voices,  
joining the choirs of angels and the cloud of witnesses  
in praising your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

**Pentecost**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
and to celebrate this day in festal joy.

For today you completed the paschal mystery,  
today you sent the Holy Spirit  
to all whom you raised with Christ  
and called to be your children.

On Pentecost you fill your Church with life:  
your Spirit gives to all peoples  
the knowledge of the one living God  
and unites the many tongues in confessing the one faith.

Therefore all peoples on earth praise you in paschal joy,  
and we join the praise of heaven and magnify your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

**The Holy Spirit**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You have called the Church from among all peoples  
and have kept it by your Holy Spirit up to this very day.  
You do not cease to call all of us to the unity of the Spirit.

Therefore we praise your mercy now and for ever,  
joining the choirs of angels in praising your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Holy Trinity**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
most holy and eternal God.

You have created, redeemed and sanctified us.  
We adore you in your divine greatness  
and bow before the unsearchable mystery of your trinity.

We praise you with all your creatures,  
joining the praise of your angels and saints singing without end:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Day of Thanksgiving for the Eucharist**

*also on Maundy Thursday*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

He is the bread coming from heaven  
to satisfy our hunger for life.

He testified to your love  
and gave his life for us,  
like a piece of bread that is broken.

You made him the head of a new humanity.

We are members of his body  
and share in his indestructible life.

He gave us the heritage of his love,  
we break the bread and share the cup.

In this way we honour you by celebrating his memorial,  
singing with all creation the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Ordinary Preface, VII**      *Jesus, the brother of all*

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, holy and immortal God,  
who called us into life

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord and saviour.

He had compassion for the poor and sick,  
the outcasts and the sinners.

He was a brother to those in need and despair.

His life and message show us

that you care for us humans

like a good father and a loving mother.

Therefore we bless your loving-kindness

and your everlasting faithfulness,

joining all the angels and saints

in singing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Presentation of the Lord**      **2 February**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For today Mary brought your eternal Son to the temple;

Simeon, illumined by the Spirit,

praised him as the glory of your people Israel;

Hanna, the prophet, proclaimed him as the saviour

and blessed your name.

We join Simeon and Hanna in meeting our saviour in joy,  
and the angels and saints in singing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

**Ordinary Preface, V**    *God leads his church*

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God, who called us into life.

You do not abandon us on our way,  
and you hear us when we cry to you.

You once led your people Israel through the wilderness.  
Today you accompany the church in the power of your Spirit.  
Your Son prepares us the road through this time to the joy of  
eternal life.

Therefore we join all the angels and saints  
in singing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

**Ordinary Preface, VI**        *Jesus, our way*

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, holy and eternal God,  
who called us into life  
through Jesus Christ your living Word.

You direct the destiny of this world and care for each person.

You gather us to be a fellowship  
that we may listen to your word  
and follow your Son in faith.

He is the way, the way we come to you;  
he is the truth, the truth that sets us free;  
he is the life, the life that fills us with joy.

Therefore we bless your mercy now and for ever,  
joining the choirs of angels and saints  
in singing the praise of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

**Last Sundays of the Liturgical Year**

*From All Saints until the day before Advent Sunday*

It is indeed right, and just  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.  
through Jesus Christ, your Son.

You exalted him as Lord of creation  
that he might present to you a kingdom,  
eternal and universal:  
the kingdom of truth and life,  
the kingdom of holiness and grace,  
the kingdom of justice, love and peace.

Then every knee will bow at the name of Jesus,  
and heaven and earth will proclaim your glory.

Therefore we join all the angels and saints, singing in joy:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Ordinary Preface, I**

Father all-powerful and ever-living God,  
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks  
and to praise you with all creation.  
For in you we live,  
we move and we have our being.  
Each day anew we know the works of your loving-kindness.  
In this life you already give us the Holy Spirit  
as pledge of eternal glory.  
Through him you raised Jesus from the dead  
and have given us the sure hope  
that the paschal mystery will be fulfilled in us.  
Therefore we join the praise of heaven,  
singing with all your creatures the hymn of joy:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Ordinary Preface, II**

It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord and saviour.  
For he suffered the darkness of this world and of death,  
but you raised him to new life.  
Therefore in him we are a new creation,  
overcome fear, and prepare the way for his coming.  
Through him we bless your mercy now and for ever,  
joining the choirs of angels and saints  
in singing the praise of your glory:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Ordinary Preface, III**

Father all-powerful and ever-living God,  
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
and to praise you with all creation,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
In living faith we remember his death,  
proclaim his resurrection and,  
full of hope and confidence,  
await his coming in glory.  
We praise you with all those made perfect,  
joining the hymn of your angels:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**

### **Ordinary Preface, IV**

It is indeed right and good,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord and saviour.  
For he is the One who suffered death for all  
so that we may not perish in death.  
He is the One who died for all,  
so that we may live with you forever.  
Through him those whom you redeemed bless you,  
joining the choirs of angels in singing the praise of your glory:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. ...**