

## Copyright in Prayer Services

When sitting down and thinking about preparing a prayer service it is important to think about copyright. Everything has copyright: words, music, and images. The easiest thing to do when writing prayer services is to create your own prayers using your own words, and to use your own personal images.

A good introductory video from the Government of Canada on copyright can be found: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IjNS5p3cqls&feature=youtu.be>

Written word:

- If you would like to re-print the written word (prayers, reflections, etc.) you must ask author permission each and every time.
- Copyright of the written word lasts for the life of the author +50 years. Protection will expire on December 31 of the 50th year after the author dies.

Music:

- Song permission must be received for the text and for the sheet music. The easiest thing to do is to refer to a page # in a book and use available hymnals in a parish.
- Music copyright includes sheet music, digital copies (recordings on computers), performing rights, and broadcast rights.

Images:

- Permission to re-print or re-use must be given from the creator of the image.
- If searching online must search "labelled for reuse."