



XVII SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Lord, teach us to pray.”



Take me home!

27th of July

Priest's Tidings

The first lengthy prayer we learned as children, and the prayer we still pray most often, is probably the "Our Father." Is it more than a formula to us? Is it to us, as it was for Jesus, a word of warmth and tenderness, and a cry of trust and close relationship? With Jesus we stand here before our Father and with the Spirit in our hearts we call out: "Father, our Father!"

It would perhaps be much easier for us to pray if prayer would not be just a compartment in life, some moments we reserve for certain places and occasions and times of special needs. Prayer is less a way of obtaining favors from God than a way of expressing to our Father in heaven, to Jesus or to the Spirit our trust in God, speaking about our life, our difficulties and our joys, entrusting to God those who are dear to us in life or in death and even recommending to him those who cause us trouble. And remember, in praying we do not try to bend God to our will but we ask that we may do his will. How long ago have we prayed this way?

Fr Hugo



Entrance Hymn:

Entrance—758 —Onward, Christian soldiers,

Collect:

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you, pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading:

Reading from the book of Genesis 18: 20-32

The Lord said, 'How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know. The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, 'Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?' the Lord replied, 'If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them. Abraham replied, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?' 'No,' he replied 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.' Again Abraham said to him, 'Perhaps there will only be forty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'for the sake of the forty. Abraham said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'if I find thirty there.' He said, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the twenty.' He said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the ten.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm - (137) -

R./Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

I will praise thee, O lord, with my whole heart: for thou hast heard the words of my mouth. I will sing praise to thee in the sight of his angels, I will worship towards thy holy temple, and I will give glory to thy name. **R/**

For thy mercy, and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy holy name above all. In what day soever I shall call upon thee, hear me: thou shall multiply strength in my soul. **R/**

For the Lord is high, and looketh on the low: and the high he knoweth afar off. If I shall walk in the midst of tribulation, thou wilt quicken me: and thou hast stretched forth thy hand against the wrath of my enemies.**R./**

Thy right hand hath saved me. The Lord will repay for me: thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever: O despise not the work of thy hands. **R./**

Second Reading:

Reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians 2: 12-14

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins. He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn:

Gradual-236 – Breathe on me, Breath of God,

Gospel Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (11: 1- 13):

Glory to you, O Lord.

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.'

He said to them, 'Say this when you pray: Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come; give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us.

And do not put us to the test. He also said to them: Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants. 'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to

you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Prayers of Intercession

Father, your kingdom come among us

As we rejoice in your love for all people, may your Church strive for justice and freedom for all. We remember all who are persecuted for their faith and all who are oppressed by tyranny. We ask your blessing upon all who witness to the power of prayer and knowing you. We pray for religious communities and for all who preach the word and administer the sacraments.

Father, your kingdom come among us

As we pray for our daily needs, we remember all who suffer from poverty, hunger and homelessness. We remember those who are deeply in debt and all who are struggling to cope with life. We ask your blessing upon all who are not sure where their next meal will come from. We pray for the harvests of the world and for fair trade.

Father, your kingdom come among us

We give thanks for all who have cared for us and supplied our needs. We ask your blessing upon our homes and our loved ones. We pray for all who are responsible for upholding high standards and integrity within our communities and we ask that we may be an example to others.

Father, your kingdom come among us

We give thanks for your forgiveness and we pray for all who are burdened with guilt and remorse and who are striving to live a new life. We remember all who are ill at home or in hospital. We ask your blessing upon them and upon those who care for them.

Father, your kingdom come among us

We trust in your never-failing love and commend to you our friends and loved ones departed. May they rejoice in the fullness of your kingdom, in the joy and peace of life eternal.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Offertory Hymn:

Offertory – 282 – Come, ye thankful people come,

Communion Hymn:

Communion- 618 – Come, thou fount of every blessing,

Post Communion Prayer:

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Recessional Hymn:

Recessional –765 – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty the King
of creation.

Prayer and Meditation

Lectio:

Prayer is at the heart of today's teaching. The disciples felt their prayers were not up to the mark and asked Jesus to give them some guidance. There are two versions of the Lord's prayer, this one from Luke and Matthew's version (Matthew 6: 9-13). Matthew's version is longer and better known by Christians as it is used in the liturgy. Jesus keeps the prayer guide short and simple. Most importantly he wants the disciples to recognise it's a relationship between Father and child. The first step is to acknowledge God as our Father recognising his holiness and honouring him. Next we should pray for his Kingdom rule to come. Then we can make any essential requests, for example food for the day, forgiveness of our sins and protection from hard testing. Jesus didn't intend us to only pray these exact words. Rather they provide us with a framework and guidance on the type of things we should pray about. The only thing that is subject to any condition is

forgiveness. If we do not forgive those who sin against us, then we won't receive forgiveness ourselves.

Jesus goes on to teach about the importance of being persistent in prayer and concludes with the illustration of a father and son. Most human fathers give good things to their children rather than things that are harmful. How much more then will our heavenly father, who knows us perfectly, give us what we need? Of course, sometimes this may mean God not giving us what we ask for because he knows it would be harmful for us.

Contemplatio

- What does this passage reveal to us about God and how he want us to approach him?
- How do you feel about God being your Father?
- How does the condition of forgiving others in order to receive your own forgiveness affect you?
- What is your own experience of prayer? What can you learn from this passage to help you?

Meditatio:

Consider today's responsorial verse Psalm 138:3: 'You answered me when I called to you; With your strength you strengthened me.

Oratio:

Pray through these verses from the Lord's prayer. After each line add your own words. Ask the Holy Spirit to help and guide you. Take your time.

What's happening in our Parish! Sunday — Mass at 9:30 a.m

Mission Mornings: SAVE THE DATES

Thank you for your contributions to last week's mission morning

Our next mission mornings will be:

Sunday 10th Aug

Sunday 14th Sept

Sunday 12th Oct

Welcoming at our Eucharist

Are you able to arrive at 9.15am to help welcome people into our church? If so, it would be lovely to have you join the welcoming team!

Please chat to Cynthia so we can add you to the rota

Regular Giving

Many thanks for your generous giving to the ministry of St Matthews' each week. If you have taken home a red envelope please fill out the form and return it so we can plan our future developments of St Matthew's



Youth Club:

Youth Club currently runs every week on Thursdays from

5-7pm at Christ Church, 90 Brixton Road. **Please spread the word!**

New PCC Meeting Date

Sunday 3rd August, 7pm in church

SAVE THE DATE St Matthew's Day

21st September: More details to follow

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