

*"Every day, as long as this 'today' lasts,
keep encouraging one another" (Heb 3:13))*

24th July 2022

**17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings p. 114**

Genesis 18:20 - 32

God hears the prayer of Abraham and saves a city.

Colossians 2:12 - 14

Paul presents a theology of baptism to the Colossian community.

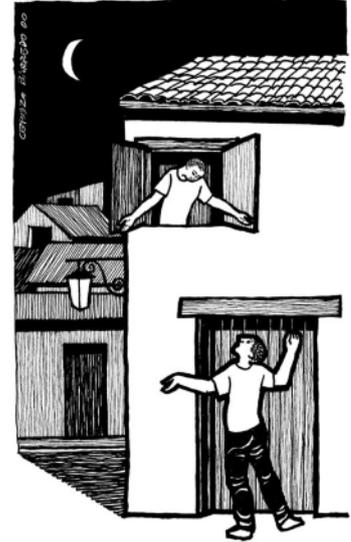
St. Luke 11:1 - 13

Jesus teaches the disciples how to pray.

*'Ask, and it
will be given to
you;*

*search, and
you will find;*

*knock, and the
door will be
opened to you.'*



'Lord teach us to pray.' If someone asked this today of a faith leader, we might get a long list of possibilities based on different tastes, cultures and trends. Millions of books have been written on prayer, how to pray, what method, where, when, how to sit, what to wear, what attitude one should have, and so on. Yet here, Jesus gives his disciples a very direct response, actual words in a formula, that they should recite.

In Jesus' time there were many rabbis who would have certain prayers for their followers to say, almost as a way of identifying their group. The Lord's prayer is the prayer of Jesus' disciples, so it is our prayer too. It is among the first prayers we learn as children. It is a prayer of identity for Christians. When we are in a moment of crisis, when all other words fail us, it is often the 'go-to' prayer.

After teaching the Lord's prayer, Jesus tells a story about a man whose friend goes to him at midnight looking for bread for another friend. It might appear to be a confusing story, but the emphasis is on the power of praying for another's need. In the early church and today, this is seen as the work of the people of God, the baptised: to pray for the world and the needs of others. Then we go beyond ourselves and our own interests, reaching out and opening up, rather than being closed in on ourselves.

Ask, and it will be given you search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.

Tríona Doherty

**Today's Psalm
Psalm 137**

Prayer takes many forms. Abraham bargains with God, as if beating down the price with a street vendor. Jesus teaches us to pray as children of the Father with absolute confidence and persistence. Knitting these readings together is a psalm of gratitude. *I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you.*

Gratitude is at the heart of prayer. It arises from the gracious awareness of what God has given. Thanksgiving responds to the gift: praise moves beyond the gift and recognises the giver. The psalmist gives thanks, then blesses, then adores.

It is impossible to appreciate the Eucharist without a deep sense of gratitude. The very word Eucharist comes from the Greek word for thanking. Liturgy is an invitation from the risen Lord to join in his eternal return of glory to the Father. We lift up our hearts, join with the orchestra of angels and saints, in unison with Jesus our conductor, returning all praise and thanks to the Father.

*Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.*
Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton - Tel: (01257) 262665

Mass Intentions for w/c Sunday July 24th 2022

Sun: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am. Cwenda Hayhurst

Mon: St James, Apostle

9.30.am. Desmond Gorman

Tues: Sts Joachim and Anne

9.30.am. Rosemary Russell

Wed: St. Ignatius of Loyola

9.30.am. Rev. Thomas Keeley

Thurs: St. Alphonsus Liguori

9.30.am. Private Intention

Fri: Sts Mary, Martha and Lazarus

7.00.pm. Private Intention

Sun: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am. Andrew Dickinson

0771 942 7926 (only for emergency use)

Confessions - At your request

On Admittance to Hospital or Nursing Home

Staff need to be made aware by you: that you, or the member of your family, or the person you accompany, are Catholic, and require the services of the Catholic Chaplaincy.

I said a prayer for you today
and I know God must have heard.

I felt the answer in my heart
although he spoke no word!

I didn't ask for wealth or fame
(I knew you wouldn't mind).

I asked him to send treasures
of a far more lasting kind!

I asked that he'd be near you at the
start of each new day to grant you
health and blessings and friends to
share your way!

I asked for happiness for you in all
things great and small.

But it was for his loving care
I prayed for most of all.

Mass Intentions received upto 24/7/2022

Special Intention (CB); Andrew Dickinson Id.

Our prayers and sympathies go to the family of Eileen Rowntree who died 16th July,
and will have a Funeral Service Aug 1st. May she rest in peace.

We pray for the Sick, especially the sick of the parish including Doreen Dilworth; Ryan Troop;
Catherine Thompson Maureen Beardsworth, Desmond Gorman and John Bracken.

Summer Holiday Foodbanks Donate mindfully. The school holidays are a wonderful time for the children, but for parents struggling to make ends meet it can be an additional anxiety. For those of us with a little bit extra income, this is a good time to donate to your local foodbank. Donating food and toiletries may sound obvious but giving some thought to what you donate is equally important. A typical food parcel contains staples such as cereal, soup, tinned vegetables, tinned meat, rice, pasta, lentils/beans, tea/coffee, UHT milk and biscuits. The aim is to provide three days of balanced, nutritional meals for those who need a parcel. So, think about what you're donating and how it will be used. Keep in mind that some items are stored for long periods, so check use-by dates.

Tue - By tradition **Joachim and Anne** are considered to be the names of the parents of Mary, the Mother of God. We have no historical evidence; any stories about Mary's father and mother come to us through legend and tradition. Sts Joachim and Anne are patron saints of grandparents and this day is a great day to celebrate grandparents everywhere.

Grandparents have spent so much of their lives looking after the rest of us; today is a day for spending time with our grandparents and making this a special day.

Fri – **St. Martha** Some of us are more like Martha - and some of us are more like Mary; but there is in all of us a built in need to combine the two within us, for without sitting and listening to God our work for God can only lead to anxiety and anger and angst, -and without doing the work our faith is clearly nothing.

“The value of consistent prayer is not that He will hear us, but that we will hear Him.”
(William McGill)