

PRAYER IN THE CHURCH

Pope Francis reflects on the prayer of the early Church at the General Audience on Wednesday (25 November) as he continued his catechesis on prayer.

“The Church’s first steps in the world were interspersed with prayer,” the Pope said. The writings of the New Testament, and especially the *Acts of the Apostles* (2, 42) , give us “the image of an active Church on the move, yet which gathered in prayer finds the basis and impulse for missionary action.”

Prayer, the driving force of evangelization

Pope Francis pointed out four essential characteristics of ecclesial life, drawn from the account in the book of *Acts*: “listening to the Apostle’s teaching” which involves preaching and catechesis; the continual quest for fraternal communion; the “breaking of the bread,” the Eucharist, which is the Sacrament of Jesus’ presence among us; and prayer, “which is the space of dialogue with the Father through Christ in the Holy Spirit.”

Anything that arises outside of those "coordinates," the Pope warned, "is deprived of a foundation... deprived of ecclesiality." When these four characteristics are present, however, it is a guarantee of the Holy Spirit.

Pope Francis said that reading the Acts of the Apostles, “we then discover what a powerful driving force of evangelization the prayer gatherings can be.” In prayer, he explained, we experience Christ’s presence among us “and are touched by the Spirit.”

Making Jesus present

The Pope quotes the Catechism: “The Holy Spirit ... keeps the memory of Christ alive in his Church at prayer, also leads her toward the fullness of truth and inspires new formulations expressing the unfathomable mystery of Christ at work in his Church's life, sacraments, and mission.” This, he explained, “is the Spirit’s work in the Church: making us remember Jesus.”

He insisted, however, that this is not simply a question of recalling facts. Instead, “Christians, walking on the paths of mission, remember Jesus while they make Him present once more; and from Him, from His Spirit, they receive the ‘push’ to go, to proclaim, to serve.”

Love, the mystical root

Prayer, the Pope said, “immerses” Christians in God’s love for each and every person and provides the missionary impulse to preach the Gospel to every human person. “God is God for everyone,” the Pope said, “and in Jesus every wall of separation has definitively crumbled.”

The exchange of love – God’s love for us, and the love He asks in return – is “the mystical root of the believer’s entire life”. And, both for the early Christians and for Christians today, prayer enables us to live that experience. Through prayer, the Pope continued, every Christian can make his own the words of St Paul: “the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Pope Francis said it is “only in the silence of adoration” that “we experience the full truth of these words... And this prayer is the living flame of the Spirit that gives strength to witness and mission.” (vaticannews.va)

The Season of Advent



Sacred Heart Parish Koorungal 28th/29th November, 2020

Parish Sec: Roxy Locke

(Mon. Thurs. Fri. 9am-2pm)

Pastor: Fr John Baptist (Mob 0415 371 627)

Parish Council Sec: Marsha Reilly

Presbytery: 71 White Avenue, Koorungal. 2650

Telephone: 02 6922 6057

Sunday Mass Times:

Sat.Vigil:5:30pm Sunday: 8am and10am

Daily Mass Times:

Monday, Wednesday: Friday 5:45pm

Tuesday-Thursday 7am. Saturday: 9.30am

Changes to Mass times will be on Chapel door.

Reconciliation: Sat. 10.00am-10.30am

Parish Pastor Email: koorungalchurch@sacredheartparish.net.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sacredheartkooringal/>

Web Site: <https://kooringalchurchsacredheartparish.net/>

Parish Council Email: shkparishcouncil@gmail.com

Safeguarding Officer: Anne Brown Phone 6926 2937 Email annie1.temple@gmail.com

WE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Brian Connolly, Mary Desira, Frank Corbett, John Hosie, Beryl Pearson, Gerard Davis, Gerard Gaynor, Sr. Ann McRae pbvm, Thea Bowen, Fr. Frank Bell, John Maloney, Laurent Stout, Michael W. Flett, Tony Madigan, Allan Davis, Barbara McDonnell, Fr. Wilfred Plunkett, Fr. Noel Connolly ssc, John Stout, Bill Matthews, Beverly Crouch., Vitas Mangahis, Bette Fitzpatrick, Bob Barclay, Beth Gillard, Eileen Gaynor, Theresa Gallucci, Rosalind Lim, Terry Phegan, Camilla McLaughlin (Dublin). Dorothy Waterford.

ANNIVERSARIES/ REMEMBRANCES: .

SICK: Ilona Gortva, Laurence Roche, Dorothy Castle, William Trist, Miriam McCoy, Joanne Huckel, , Mary Condell, Shivaun Clifton, Barry Parnell, Hayden O’Callaghan, June Kimber, Denise Goonan, Adam Horsley, Finley Owens, Shirley Gabriel, Brianna Papworth, Harry Edmonds, Jeff Edwards.

SVDP CHRISTMAS HAMPERS. Please take an envelope from the tree & bring back an unwrapped donation to leave under the tree. As we are packing hampers on Monday 14th December we would like all donations to be in by weekend of 12/13th. If there are no envelopes on the tree please just bring a donation of festive non perishable food. Thank you. Any questions contact Maryanne 0428389090.

Volunteers are needed to help the oldies make rosary beads. If you have an hour to spare each week, call Denise 69223193 for more information.

First Sunday of Advent – Year B

To prepare for next Sunday's Mass go to St Louis Jesuits – The Centre for Liturgy website: <http://liturgy.slu.edu> and/or Jerusalem Bible Translation of Readings: <http://www.universalis.com/>

FIRST READING: A reading from prophet Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 79

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,

the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again:

give us life that we may call upon your name.

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Ps 84:8

Alleluia, Alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL:

Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

GOSPEL CONNECTIONS

Be Watchful & Stay Awake

I've known several people in the last few years who were told by their doctors they were terminally ill. In each case, these folks immediately made decisions about their lives that they'd been delaying until now. People who know they're dying can't afford to save anything until later. There may not be a "later". There's only now.

The rest of us are kidding ourselves if we think we're not dying; not now, not any time soon, maybe never. When Jesus says, "Be watchful!", we think he means the other guy. We put our faith squarely in "later". Some of us belong to the Church of Later, in which we fully intend to be good, spiritual, faithful people - at a future time to be announced.

Some of us may live to a satisfying old age and wear out with a smile. Some of us will get a deadline from our doctors and have some lead time to prepare. Many of us are left in the dark as to when we'll die or how. This can make us sloppy about the way we live, even arrogant about it. Not taking death seriously is a real mistake in the spiritual life. The church's wisdom is to remind us, right from the start of the church year, that mortality is just what it says it is: a short-term proposition.

What are the lessons that death teaches you?

Resolve to live this Advent season with watchfulness and attention. Miss no opportunity to be kind, generous, forgiving. Resist spiritual laziness with its shrug toward "later". Be a saint in the making right now.

(gpbs.com.au)

LAST WEEKS COLLECTIONS INCLUDING DIRECT GIVING

1st Collection \$795.10

2nd Collection \$1,076.10

MASS ROSTER COMMENCING NEXT WEEKEND

Copies in the foyer and sent to email address