



Praying the Scripture - a few simple steps at home Sunday 14th July 2019

1. Start with stillness and quietening down; then gently read the passage, noticing any feelings and connections to your own experience.
2. Read the passage again and spend time noticing what you don't readily understand. *The notes in your Bible may be of help at this point.*
3. Read the passage a third time - wondering how you yourself might pray the text over the next few days.
4. Over the next week, set aside times to come back more than once to the passage. You could read it all or part of it again, slowly. Perhaps there is a special word for you in this passage of Scripture? Keep this word or phrase in your thoughts and gently repeat it, bringing it to mind and allowing God to speak to you in your heart.
5. Finally, come back to the text to conclude: What is God in this scripture asking of you this week? What is the one challenge, one little change you are asked to make or the thing you have been asked to do? Then say a prayer of thanksgiving for the good news in the passage. End in quiet prayer.



THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL - LUKE 10:25-37

A lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

- * What touched me most in the parable?
- * With whom in the story do I identify?
- * Have I ever thought of Jesus as the Good Samaritan? Have I ever thought of Jesus as the one beaten and robbed?
- * What urges me to love my neighbour? Is it the need to love and be loved, or is it compassion and the love of Christ?
- * Who inspires me to put my faith into action? How do I inspire others?
- * Who is my neighbour?
- * Do I recognise the opportunities given me each day?

SOME POINTERS FOR PRAYER

- The Samaritan of the parable was not of the Jewish people, but he did what Jesus asks. Does this happen today? Do you know people who do not go to Church but live what the Gospel asks? Today, who are the priest, the Levite and the Samaritan? Who is the one beaten?
- *The Lawyer asks: "Who is my neighbour?"* Jesus asks: "Who was the neighbour of the man who was the victim of the bandits?" There are two different points of view: the Lawyer asks starting from himself. Jesus asks starting from the needs of the other. Which is my perspective or point of view?
- *"Go and do likewise."* – What is the challenge put to me?

Prayer

Loving God, as we rejoice in your kindness towards us, help us to imitate your love for all without distinction. Help me to see my neighbour as any fellow human being in need and have the courage reach out. Amen