



Praying the Scripture - a few simple steps at home

Christ the King - Sunday 24th November 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 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 25:35-42 ...today you will be with me in Paradise

The rulers sneered at Jesus and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God." Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews." Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

A THOUGHT

In this Sunday's gospel we are celebrating the power of Jesus, a power he never used to his own advantage. We see how the power of Jesus works – the divine way. The power of Jesus is based on truth, honesty and forgiveness. What a great world we would have if people used their power in a Christ-like way. Jesus exercises this power as he hangs on the cross in the midst of great mocking and jeering by the leaders, soldiers and one of the criminals. Are we like Jesus as we exercise our duties of parenting and leadership of Church and State in truth, honesty and forgiveness? When were the times that we experienced Jesus' power in our lives? In A. A. Milne, we read the following scrap of dialogue: "What day is it?" It's today," squeaked Piglet. "My favourite day," said Pooh. Today has to be our favourite day because it is the only day we'll ever have. As St Augustine alarmingly noticed, the past is over, the future is not yet and the present, fleeting moment is the future becoming the past. And yet, this flying time is our "today of salvation," a day like no other, not to be repeated. See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! (2 Corinthians 6:2) The pulse of life is the heartbeat of God.

SOME POINTERS FOR PRAYER

- What conversion of mind, heart, and life is the Lord asking of me?
- *Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us.* When have I questioned Christ? How can I best address those times when my faith feels weakest?
- *Have you no fear of God?* When do I feel awe for God and his works? How can I become more aware of God's majesty and power working in my life?
- *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.* When have I felt forgotten? What reminds me of God's presence and love for me?

Prayer

*In this present moment, Lord, help me to put my fingers on the pulse of life, living fully life in abundance. Help me to be like Jesus turning our moments of loneliness into moments of power when I enter into communion with those in need and unite myself in bringing the hope and new life that Jesus brought to us all. I make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen***