

Weekly Theme

W/C 17th October 2016



“Don’t give up”

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who

neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

In this week's gospel, a poor, powerless widow persists in nagging a corrupt, powerful judge to do justice for her. Jesus in this parable tells us, that we are "to pray always and not lose heart" Jesus talks to us today as if we are the widow. And the Judge as God. Jesus doesn't mean that God is corrupt, what he is saying is that if persistence pays off with a corrupt human of limited power, how much more will it pay off with a just God of infinite power.

Prayer is simply conversation with God. It's asking Him to meet our need or someone else's. It's praising him and thanking Him. It's about committing things to him and consecrating things to him. We can pray about everything and anything.

Some people don't pray much because they don't understand how powerful prayer really is. The truth is it's one of the greatest privileges we have as Christians.

Praying is easier to do than we think it is. And it can be so much a part of our life that we don't even realise how much we pray – like breathing.

Prayer

Lord, in the difficulty I face today, guard my heart, guide my words, and show your grace. May I always turn to you in prayer.
Amen

Form Tutor

The aim of this week's theme: When we pray, we open the door for God to come into our problems and situations and work on them. Prayer makes us partners with God. And while we can't really change people and make them love God, He can reach out and talk to them in their hearts and reach them. This week we are going to pray for others.

Day One

Tutor:

Read Scripture

Student Prayer:

Loving Father, help me to recognise you in my life this week

St John Plessington
Pray for us

Day 2

Think about: The society in which we live.

Tutor:

Ask your Students today to talk about what it means to live a Democratic Society. What is good about it? What responsibilities does it bring?

Student prayer

Today Lord, we pray for all who are in positions of authority in Government, both locally and nationally

Amen

St John Plessington

Pray for us

Day 3

Think about: The world in which we live.

Tutor:

Today we want to think about the millions of people in our world who suffer from hunger and poverty. Who are the organisation who try to help them? Can you name any? And what do they do?

Student prayer

Loving Lord, help us to create a world where all people are equal and all have a just share of this world's resources

Amen

St John Plessington

Pray for us

Day Four

Think about our college community

Tutor

Today, we want to pray for each member of our College Family. We think about those who are suffering through illness, or who have lost somebody that they love. We remember those who are facing problems at home. Those who feel lonely and those for whom today is a difficult day.

Student Prayer

God Our Father, we ask you today to help each member of our college family who is suffering. Help them to know that you are always with them, even when times are really tough.

Amen

St John Plessington

Pray for us

Day Five

Think about our families

Tutor

Home is the place where we can be ourselves, today we are going to pray for everyone who is part of our family. Those who provide us with food and clothes and a place to live. Maybe there is somebody in our family that we would like to pray for especially today.

Student Prayer

Loving Lord, today I have a simple pray, bless each member of my family

Amen

St John Plessington
Pray for us

Other prayers you may like to use this week

You asked for my hands
that you might use them for your purposes
I gave them for a moment then withdrew them
for the work was hard.
You asked for my mouth
to speak out against injustice.
I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.
You asked for my eyes
to see the pain of poverty.
I closed them for I did not want to see.
You asked for my life
that you might work through me .
I gave you a small part that I might not get "too involved".
Lord,
forgive me for calculated efforts to serve you
only when it is convenient for me to do so, and
only in those places where it is safe to do so,
and only with those who make it easy to do so.
Father, forgive me, renew me, send me out
as a usable instrument, that I may take seriously the meaning of your cross.
We pray for the Church throughout the world,
that she may be a voice for those who lack even the basic necessities of life,
tirelessly serving them and calling for change.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for the world's leaders,
that they may not hide behind their power or abuse it,
but work for the good of all humanity,
particularly the poor throughout the world.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for our local community,
that we may show our love through our respect for each other
and for our environment, gladly sharing what we have with those in need.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, open our eyes so that we can recognise the injustice around us
that is not always obvious.

Allow us to be moved by compassion for the victims of injustice and to act in
accordance with your will, to defend the poorest and to save the children in
need.

Amen.

Lord God, you feel so strongly about the needy,
the afflicted, the weak, and the imprisoned – and you love them so deeply.
Inspire the leaders among us to uphold the rights of the downtrodden
and to serve with fairness, justice and integrity.

Amen.

