

Please pray for Fr. Loururaj's good health and longevity in service to God as tomorrow is his birthday!

10.10.2018 – Wednesday – 27th Week in Ordinary Time

Gal 2:1-2, 7-14 Lk 11:1-4

In yesterday's Gospel reading Mary was commended for her prayerful listening to the word of the Lord. Jesus himself was a person of prayer, while leading a very active life. The disciples seemed to recognize that if they were to pray they would need the Lord's help. Prayer is not just a human activity; it is the Lord's activity in us, through the Spirit. The disciples' request is, in itself, a valuable prayer, 'Lord teach us to pray' or to express that prayer in different words, 'Lord, help me to pray; Lord, pray within me'.

The 'Our Father' has been rightly called the 'Lord's prayer' because it is a prayer that the Lord himself has given us. The prayer begins with a focus on God and on God's purposes for our lives and the world.

1. Hallowed be Thy Name:

"Hallowed" means to be holy. As we pray this part of the prayer, we are not praying that God's name *will* become holy, for His name already *is* holy. Rather, we pray that this holiness of God will be recognized by all people and us.

2. Thy Kingdom Come:

To pray that God's "Kingdom come" means we desire that He first take greater possession of our souls. The Kingdom of God must be within us. He must reign on the throne of our hearts and we must allow Him. Therefore, this must be our constant prayer.

We also pray that the Kingdom of God become present in our world. God wants to transform the social, political and cultural order right now. So we must pray and work for that.

3. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven:

Praying for the Kingdom of God to come means, also, that we seek to live the will of the Father. This petition is a way of committing ourselves to live in union with Christ Jesus. We take our will and entrust it to Christ so that His will lives in us.

We can pray with expectant faith because our heavenly Father truly loves each one of us and he treats us as his beloved children. He delights to give us what is good. His love and grace transforms us and makes us like himself. Through his grace and power we can love and serve one another as Jesus taught - with grace, mercy, and loving-kindness.

4. Forgiveness:

Do you treat others as they deserve, or do you treat them as the Lord Jesus would with grace and mercy? Jesus' prayer includes an injunction that we must ask God to forgive us in proportion as we forgive those who have wronged us (Matthew 6:14-15). God's grace frees us from every form of anger, resentment, envy, and hatred. Are you ready to forgive others as the Lord Jesus forgives you?

5. Our Needs:

In the end this prayer then shifts to a focus on our primary needs as human beings and the Lord's disciples. There is a pattern there that is valid for all of our prayer. We attend first to God and to whatever God desires and then to our needs before God.

Let Us Pray"

"Father in heaven, you have given me a mind to know you, a will to serve you, and a heart to love you. Give me today the grace and strength to embrace your holy will and fill my heart with your love that all my intentions and actions may be pleasing to you. Help me to be kind and forgiving towards my neighbor as you have been towards me".

Jesus I trust in you