



**This Sunday's Second Reading 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B  
(James 2: 1-5)**

**My brothers and sisters, be fair to all as you hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man with gold rings and in fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "Have a seat here, please," while you say to the poor man, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brethren. Has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which he has promised to those who love him?**

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**





# Prayer One

## The Sign of the Cross

**Let us remember that everything we do is  
In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

### ***Reflection:***

***This is our first full week of the new  
academic year - a great chance to think  
about what lies ahead and about what's  
going to be important to us this year!***

Here are some things to think about this morning...

*[Read slowly, leaving a pause after each one]*



**How are you feeling at the moment?**

**What will you need God's help with this year?**

**What do you want to do differently this year?**

**Is there anything or anyone you are worried about at the moment?**

**What can you do this year to get closer to God?**

**What can you do this year to be a kinder and more loving person?**



# **Final Prayer**

**Loving Father,**

**Bless us as we gather together as a community and be with us as we journey through the months ahead.**

**Bring success to our efforts, bring joy to our relationships and help us to remember each day that you are walking beside us.**

**Our Father, who art in heaven...**

**In the name of the Father and of the Son...**

# Prayer Two

## The Sign of the Cross

**Let us remember that everything we do is  
In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

### *Reflection*

*In this week where we are thinking about  
the idea of equality, it is probably a good  
idea to think about the things that might  
get in the way of equality.*



**There are a great many things that get in the way of equality in the world: maybe arrogance or fear. Maybe a lack of patience or a lack of time, or maybe just a fear of the unknown or a reluctance to get to know others.**

**In this week where we think about equality, we ask God for the strength and the wisdom to be people who don't fall prey to any of these things**



# **Final Prayer**

**Loving Father,**

**Give us loving hearts and open minds. May we never be ruled by fear and prejudice, but only ever by love, justice, compassion and kindness.**

**May we always see every person as our equal, and remember that we are all your blessed children.**

**We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.**

**In the name of the Father and of the Son...**





# Prayer Three

## The Sign of the Cross

**Let us remember that everything we do is  
In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

### *Reflection*

*On Wednesday we will observe the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
anniversary of a date that will forever be  
connected with terrorism, suffering and  
death: September 11th 2001.*



**On that day in 2001, nineteen men took it upon themselves to bring death to thousands, and to bring hurt and turmoil to many millions more.**

**It's difficult to know exactly why they did this, but chances are it's probably because they thought they were better than everybody else. There was probably a part of them that failed to recognise the goodness and the rights of others.**

**Bringing about a peaceful world must surely involve an element of equality. In other words, if we are going to ensure that this sort of thing never happens again, then we need to find a way to help all people to see the value and the goodness in one another.**



# **Final Prayer**

**Loving Father,**

**You alone can bring peace and healing to our world, and as we remember the attacks of September 11th, we see clearly why that peace and healing is needed.**

**We remember today all those who died in 2001 and we remember the loved ones they left behind. We remember also all those who have lost their lives since 2001 because of war, conflict and terrorism and those who now flee from their homelands because of these evils. We keep the people of Ukraine, Gaza & Israel in our thoughts and prayers at this time.**

**Bring comfort to the grieving and healing to the wounded. Grant eternal rest to those who lost their lives. And in your love and mercy, help the hearts of all men and women to see the value and the goodness in others.**

**In the name of the Father and of the Son...**



# Final Thought...



*Next weeks theme: **ACTION***