



This Sunday's Gospel Reading
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C
(Luke 18: 1-8)

And he told them a parable, to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor regarded man; and there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Vindicate me against my adversary.' For a while he refused; but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will vindicate her, or she will wear me out by her continual coming.'" And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will vindicate them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?"



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:
***One key theme in our reading this week is
having faith and persevering in prayer.***





We live in a world where we expect instant results. When we type something into Google, we expect to get back what we're looking for immediately. We expect to find the answers and to be connected to something on the far side of the planet in an instant. We live in a world of fast food, jet planes, the Channel Tunnel, and so many more fast, efficient things.

For this reason, prayer can seem very unsatisfactory. God doesn't work like Google, but then, that's not really what prayer is meant to be.

C.S. Lewis once said that *prayer doesn't change God, it changes us*. His point was that we don't pray to make God realise things that he didn't *get* before; we pray so that we can keep our lives centred on things that are really important and so that we can allow God to be a part of things.

Make no mistake, prayers do get answered. Perhaps not always instantly, or in the way that we expect, but if we trust in God and persevere in prayer then we will find our lives transformed in a real and meaningful way.



Final Prayer

Loving Father,

You never turn away when your children call upon you. You are always listening, always loving and always working in our world.

We ask you today to keep our faith strong and to keep us always ready to turn to you with our needs, thoughts, joys and sorrows.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

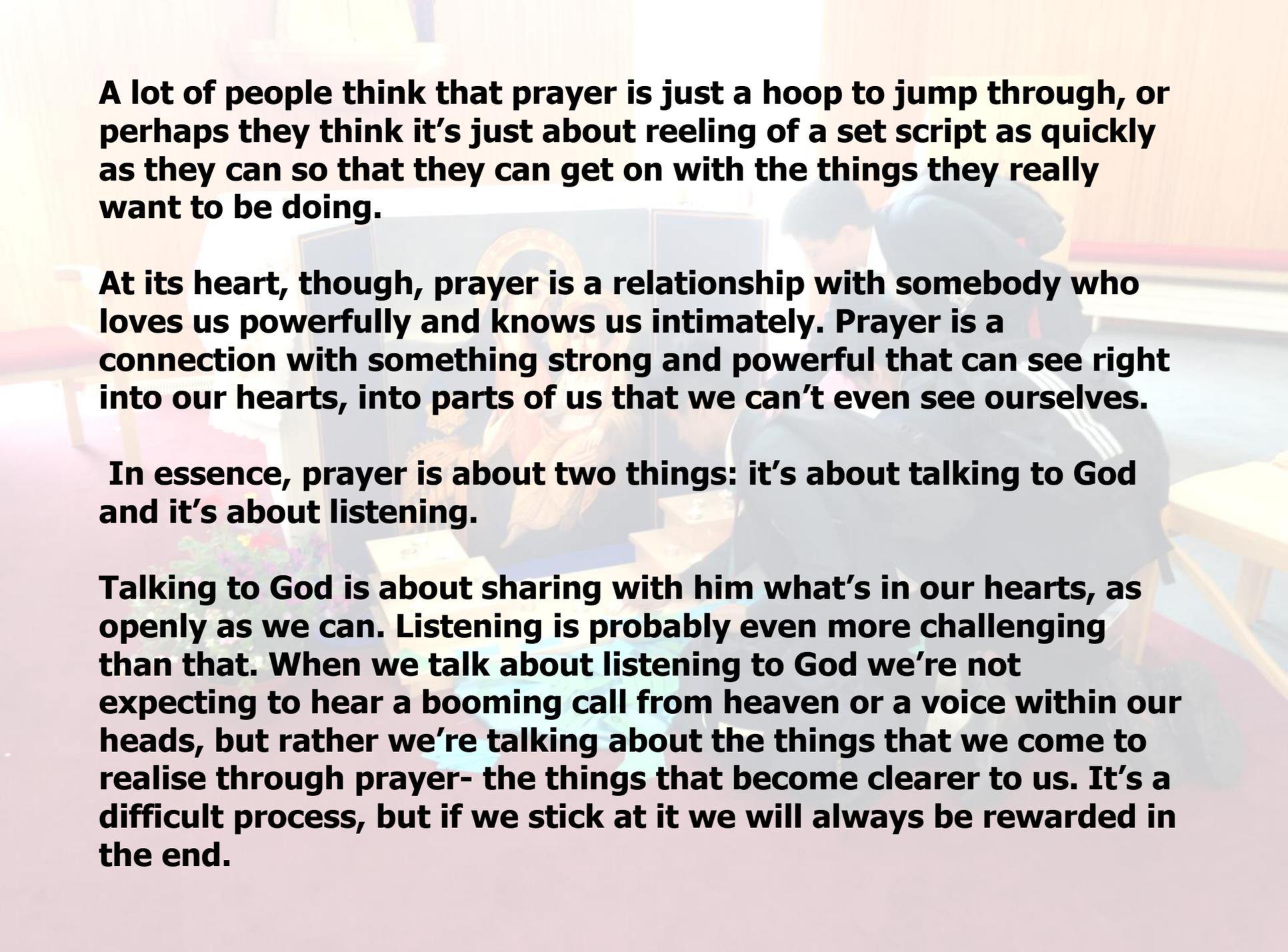
Prayer Two

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: Our theme this week is prayer,
which is a good thing to think about, but it's
also something which is pretty misunderstood.*



A photograph of a church service. A priest in a blue and gold vestment is kneeling in prayer, facing a woman who is also kneeling in prayer. They are in a church with a large stained-glass window in the background. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the window.

A lot of people think that prayer is just a hoop to jump through, or perhaps they think it's just about reciting of a set script as quickly as they can so that they can get on with the things they really want to be doing.

At its heart, though, prayer is a relationship with somebody who loves us powerfully and knows us intimately. Prayer is a connection with something strong and powerful that can see right into our hearts, into parts of us that we can't even see ourselves.

In essence, prayer is about two things: it's about talking to God and it's about listening.

Talking to God is about sharing with him what's in our hearts, as openly as we can. Listening is probably even more challenging than that. When we talk about listening to God we're not expecting to hear a booming call from heaven or a voice within our heads, but rather we're talking about the things that we come to realise through prayer- the things that become clearer to us. It's a difficult process, but if we stick at it we will always be rewarded in the end.

Final Prayer

LOVING FATHER...

Help us not to run away from prayer or to assume that it's just another box to tick. Instead, help us to really talk to you and help us to really listen to what you give us in return.

May our prayer draw us closer to the amazing story of why you created us!

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON,
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.**

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: Our theme of the week is Prayer. For prayer to be affective in our lives we need to create time and space for it



Whether you are particularly religious or not, one thing you will need as you go through life is the ability to make time and space. Time and space to relax, to reflect, to think, to be with those you care about, or even just to rest and recharge and get away from it all for a while.

We live in a marvellous world. so marvellous that a wealth of information is at our fingertips. We are never out of touch and it is so easy to find out what'd going on around us. The problem with our world though is that it is also pretty hard to switch off all the noise and get away from it! And the older we gets, the more there is to get away from and the harder it is to get away from it!

**So, this week, ask yourself what you do
make time and space?**

What do you do to get away from it all?



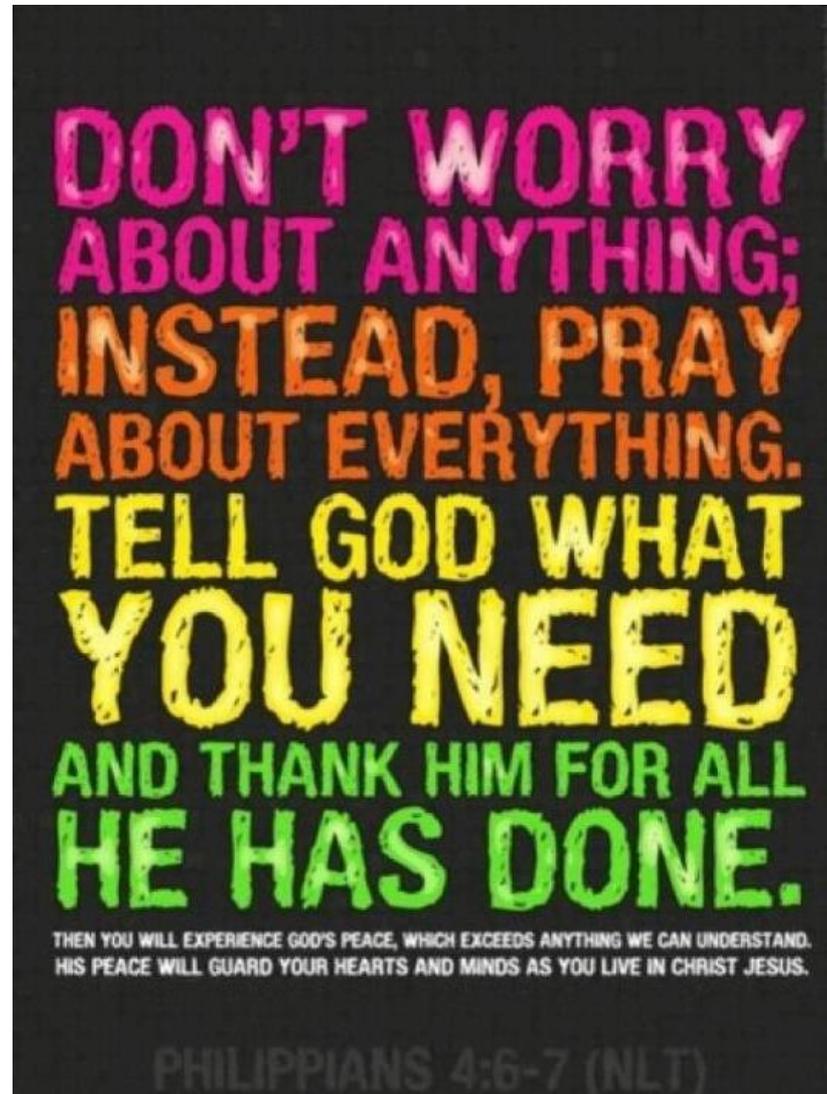
LOVING FATHER...

You created us in an amazing world, and we are grateful for everything you have given us that keeps us connected. Help us to stay connected too to what matters in our own lives and in our own hearts, so that always and everywhere we can stay connected to you and connected to what's really important.

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.



Final Thought...



After the break: Conversion