



**This Sunday's Gospel Reading**  
**27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C**  
**(Luke 17: 5-10)**

**The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" And the Lord said, "If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be rooted up, and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.**

**"Will any one of you, who has a servant ploughing or keeping sheep, say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down at table'? Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and gird yourself and serve me, till I eat and drink; and afterward you shall eat and drink'? Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"**



**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

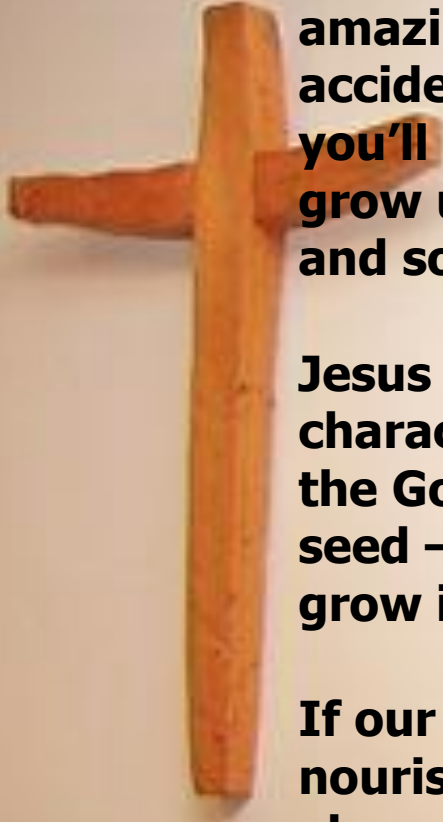


# Prayer One

## 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: In this week's Gospel  
reading Jesus talks about Mustard  
seeds and it's from these passages that  
we get our theme of faith.***



**The transformation of a seed into a tree or a bush is an amazing thing, but it's not something that just happens by accident. If you were paying attention in primary school, you'll remember that more often than not a seed won't grow unless it has things like good soil, nutrition, sunlight and so on...**

**Jesus compares our faith to a seed, and the main characteristic of seeds is that they grow. In other parts of the Gospels, Jesus talks about his Kingdom as being like a seed – something which may seem small, but which will grow into something wonderful, and fruitful.**

**If our faith is going to grow though, it is going to need the nourishment and care that young plants need. If it's left alone then it might well get into trouble.**

**Rather than water and sunlight and so on, our faith needs to be practiced and remembered. It needs to be evident in what we do and say. It needs to be watered and fed by prayer and it needs to be allowed to grow by being open to what God wants of us, and who God wants us to be.**



# **Final Prayer**

**Loving Father,**

**God our Father, help us to look after and care for our faith and help us to see its beauty as it grows and blossoms.**

**Give us the food of your guidance and help us to always sit in the sunlight of your love.**

**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:*

*The idea of faith is a very misunderstood one. Take the word BELIEVE, for instance. It has to be one of the more common words in our language, but it's often a word that's thrown around very casually.*



**The idea of belief and faith is a massively important part of who we are. To say that we believe in something means that we are prepared to put our trust in it even if we can't see it. It means commitment. It means investing something of ourselves. It can even mean taking a risk in something when there is no obvious guarantee of getting anything back.**

**We take a few moments this morning to think about what we believe in. What are we prepared to take a risk on?**

**Have a think about each of the following:**

**[please read slowly, pausing after each]**

- **People**
- **The world**
- **Our community**
- **Our school**
- **Ideas**
- **Organisations**
- **Products**
- **God**



# **Final Prayer**

**Loving Father,**

**God our Father, there may be many things that we believe in and there may be many ways to express that, but help us in our belief. Help us to believe in the things that will build us up, rather than knock us down, and help us to stick by the things we believe in, no matter what life throws at us.**

**We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.  
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: This week will see the Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, one of the great Saints of the Church and the patron of one of the houses in our school.***

**St. Francis was a fascinating Saint, and one of the most popular in the history of the Church.**

**Francis came from a rich family. His Father was a wealthy merchant who used to take Francis on his business trips around Europe when he was a young boy.**

**Francis stood to inherit a great deal from his Father, but refused it all so that he could live a life of poverty and service, spreading the word of God and helping the poor.**

**Faith motivates us to do things that might seem a little crazy and unusual to other people. Few of us will be called to do what Francis did, but we are all called to put something of our own wishes and desires aside from time to time so that we can help those who are not as fortunate as ourselves.**

**In the letter of St. James in the New Testament, he tells the early Christians that *faith without works is dead.***

**This is quite a challenging idea. If we claim that we believe in something, but we are completely unwilling to let it affect us, then it's pretty useless really.**

**So the question for us this week is this... How does our faith change who we are and what we do?**





# **Final Prayer**

**LOVING FATHER...**

**We can only love others because you first loved us, and that love stays at the heart of every good action your children perform.**

**Help us always to be filled with your love and help that love to cast out any darkness and worries in our lives.**

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

# Final Thought...



*Next weeks theme: **Healing***