



Dear Parents and Carers,

Life can be demanding. Prayer is good for us – it gives us great strength! Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI reminds us, "Prayer brings us not only nearer to God but also nearer to one another."

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about Jesus taking time out to recover and refresh himself through prayer. After he brings peace and recovery to Simon's mother-in-law, everyone crowds in on Jesus, wanting to be healed. Finally, Jesus goes off in the early morning to gather strength by praying to his Father.

Wednesday 3rd February 2021

Jesus regularly gathered together the community and prayed with them. He also made time to pray alone – a model of praying for us to follow. Prayer was the source of Jesus' joy, strength and compassion, and it can be ours too.

Just follow the simple steps overleaf to enjoy hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **PRAYER**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



To see this week's Parish Version of The Wednesday Word: wednesdayword.org – Parents' Pages – Lectio Divina with Fr Henry.

**"Prayer is intimate
conversation
with God."**

St Clement of Alexandria

**THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
SUNDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2021**



On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway.

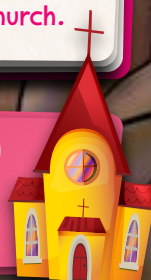
He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many evil spirits, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was. In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there.

Adapted from Mark 1:29-39

The 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

You are warmly invited to learn more about
the Gospel through your local parish church.

**"Dear parents, teach your children
to pray. Pray with them. Prayer
strengthens family life."** *Pope Francis*



God wants us to spend time with him through prayer, just as we would spend time with others who love us. We can trust that God always hears our prayers. God is our loving Father and will always do what is best for us and those we pray for.



1 Our Special Time Together

Enjoy reading the Gospel overleaf (or below for younger children)

After teaching and praying in the synagogue (the Jewish meeting place), Jesus went to Simon and Andrew's house. There they found that Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever. Jesus went to her, took her by the hand and she was healed. She got up and began to serve all those who were there. That evening, the people of the town brought to Jesus anyone who was sick, and Jesus cured all kinds of diseases and sickness. Then very early the next morning, Jesus left the house to find a quiet place where he could be by himself to pray.

After healing all those who were sick, where did Jesus go and what did he do?

Which word or words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? See the Gospel picture opposite. What does it make you think about?



2 Wednesday's Word is ...

PRAYER



3

Loving God & Each Other

"In books we seek God; in prayer we find him."

St Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

Ask your child what the word 'prayer' means to them. Does your child like to pray aloud or quietly, alone or with others? What is their favourite prayer? It may be a well-known prayer or one that they have made up themselves. Have you ever tried composing your own personal family prayer - to say each day? Ask your child if they know a bedtime prayer or if they can say any of the prayers which they have learned at school. You might like to share one of your favourite prayers with your child.

"The Lord's Prayer is the most perfect of prayers."

St Thomas Aquinas

God created us to pray, to be with him and to talk to him. We can **pray anywhere, anytime**. Each of you say when and where you like to pray (e.g. at home, in bed, at church, at school, outside, elsewhere). What would you like to pray and ask God for this week? Who can you pray for throughout the coming week (e.g. a family member, a friend, your teacher, your priest, a poorly, hungry or lonely person)? How else can you help that person?

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Gospel Gallery

M O Q U E M W O F O A J
T N E C T N G X E J W E
A U A Q E N Q T X E N X
L L Q U I E T X N S S E
P T U N X E R F O U N D
R M R Q I Y X Z S S P R
N O N U M N D E Y A R P
M R Q R N A J E T C A L
D N U O F L M Q R N Y C
W I Y U M O P L A C E Q
E N O L A N M X P N D S
M G U E N E X T W R S E

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**



NEXT MORNING



JESUS FOUND



QUIET PLACE



PRAYED ALONE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

Cross out the letters **c d n** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

qunidect pradncy chodusen hidmsneclf

Jesus left the _____ to find a _____ place where he could be by _____ to _____.



Search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

Prayer, at its simplest, is being with God - talking, listening - telling God all about our lives.

Perhaps this week you can try to say an extra prayer every day and see what a difference this can make to your day.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

