

Pope's prayer intention for July

Universal: That those who administer justice may work with integrity, and that the injustice which prevails in the world may not have the last word.

BE STILL

- Take a moment to allow whatever is in your heart to rise and offer your thoughts to the loving care of the Lord today.
- Listen to '[Come, follow me](#)' by David Haas

This week:

- Wednesday 3 July: St Thomas, apostle (feast)

Gathering prayer:

Loving God,
Draw near to us as we sit, think and reflect upon your Word.
Open our hearts in order that we can hear your voice.
Amen.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

As the time drew near for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem and sent messengers ahead of him. These set out, and they went into a Samaritan village to make preparations for him, but the people would not receive him because he was making for Jerusalem. Seeing this, the disciples James and John said, 'Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to burn them up?' But he turned and rebuked them, and they went off to another village.

As they travelled along they met a man on the road who said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' Jesus answered, 'Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'

Another to whom he said, 'Follow me', replied, 'Let me go and bury my father first.' But he answered, 'Leave the dead to bury their dead; your duty is to go and spread the news of the kingdom of God.'

Another said, 'I will follow you, sir, but first let me go and say goodbye to my people at home.' Jesus said to him, 'Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

—Luke 9:51-62

The Gospel of the Lord.

Ponder:

Re-read the gospel. Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013) noted that in the presence of God, during a recollected reading of the text, it is good to practice *lectio divina*—the reading of God's word in prayer asking that it 'enlighten and renew' us. The following questions may help with this:

- Lord, what does this text mean to me?
- What is it about my life that you want me to change in response to this text?
- What troubles me about this text?

- Why am I not interested in this?
- What do I find pleasant about this text?
- What is it about this word that moves me?
- What attracts me?
- Why does it attract me?

Reflect:

There are times in our lives when we are profoundly aware that we are on a journey: something may have happened to plunge us into a different way of being and we are forced to pay attention. Perhaps our steps are faltering; perhaps we feel we have lost our way. ... So we resolutely get up each day and we hope that all will be well.

This week, Jesus is resolute as he walks. He knows that his earthly time is coming to an end and there is a sense of urgency about him. This is the non-compromising Jesus, urging us to 'follow'.

Perhaps this week is a time to reflect on what it means to follow Jesus. What does it mean for us?

Becoming a missionary disciple ...

Encounter

I invite Christians, everywhere, at this very moment to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do to this unfailingly each day.

—*Evangelii Gaudium*, § 3

- How can I accept this invitation to encounter Jesus in my daily life of faith?

Accompany

If we are to share our lives with others and generously give of ourselves, we also have to realise that every person is worthy of our giving.

—*Evangelii Gaudium*, § 274

- How will I accompany others in their journey of faith this week?

Community

The Church which 'goes forth' is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice.

—*Evangelii Gaudium*, § 24

- How will I encourage a missionary spirit in my community this week?

Go forth

Today, as the Church seeks to experience a profound missionary renewal, there is a kind of preaching which falls to each of us as a daily responsibility.

—*Evangelii Gaudium*, § 127

- How will I accept the challenge of preaching the Good News this week?

PRAY

Loving God
Encourage us in our efforts to live as a holy people.
Give us faithful hearts that, through our works,
we may make visible your great love for the world.
Amen.