

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:

- Thursday 11 July: St Benedict (memorial)

Gathering prayer:

Loving God,
Draw near to us as we sit, listen and reflect upon your word.
Open our hearts in order that we can hear your voice.
Prepare our hands for the work of mission.
Amen.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit. He said to them, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road.

'Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, "Peace to this house!" And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house.

'Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and say, "The kingdom of God is very near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not make you welcome, go out into its streets and say, "We wipe off the very dust of your town that clings to our feet, and leave it with you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God is very near." I tell you, on that day it will not go as hard with Sodom as with that town.'

The seventy-two came back rejoicing. 'Lord,' they said 'even the devils submit to us when we use your name.' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Yes, I have given you power to tread underfoot serpents and scorpions and the whole strength of the enemy; nothing shall ever hurt you. Yet do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you; rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven.'

—Luke 10:1–12, 17–20

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:

Offer peace, share food, bring healing—perhaps this is the recipe for discipleship! Perhaps the invitation this week is to join the seventy-two, because the harvest is rich and the laborers are few. Because our world is in need of peace. Because our world needs hospitality, kindness and welcome. Because our world needs people who can heal the many social wounds we have created. And perhaps this is how we make visible the work of Jesus in the world.

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.