

Ordinary Time

WEEK 16

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 '[A generous heart](#)' by Tony Alonso (from *Pilgrim*)

This week:

- Monday 22 July: St Mary Magdalene (Feast)
- Thursday 25 July: St James, apostle (Feast)
- Friday 26 July: Sts Joachim and Anne (Memorial)

Gathering prayer:

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

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered: 'Martha, Martha,' he said 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.'

—Luke 10:38-42

The Gospel of the Lord.

Ponder:

- After the first reading of the gospel, what words or phrases stay with me?
- Re-read the gospel. Take a moment of silence to reflect upon how God is speaking through this text. Noting down some responses to the following may assist with reflection:

I think about my life:

- What is God asking me to listen to?
- What does God want me to pay attention to?
- What is God prompting, directing, leading and guiding me to in this reading?
- What are my worries at the moment?

I think about my community and the world:

- What is God asking of us at this time?
- What is God wanting us to attend to in our community and our world?
- What is God prompting, directing, leading and guiding us towards?
- How will I accept the challenge of preaching the Good News this week?

Reflect:

This gospel can be challenging for us—because none of us really want to be Martha! But perhaps this is a 'both/and' rather than an 'either/or'. Perhaps the invitation from this week's gospel is to reflect on how we can balance both our doing and our being. A reminder for us that a rich prayer life can animate a productive work life.

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.