

## 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 [‘Seek ye first’](#) (AOVI 48, CWBII 594, GA 456, G 658).

## This week:

- Monday 29 July: St Martha (memorial)
- Wednesday 31 July: St Ignatius of Loyola (memorial)
- Thursday 1 August: St Alphonsus Liguori (memorial)
- Saturday 3 August: St Dominic (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:

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished one of his disciples said, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.’ He said to them, ‘Say this when you pray: “Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come; give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us. And do not put us to the test.”’

He also said to them: ‘Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, “My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him”; and the man answers from inside the house, “Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it you.” I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship’s sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

‘So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’

—Luke 11:1–13

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:

‘For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him’.

—Luke 11:10

As we move a little further along our life journey, we may become more aware of the power of these words. We may look back and see the hand of God in the unfolding of our lives and think, ‘God blessed me and answered my prayer.’ That is why prayer is so simple and yet so complex. It is like speaking with a loved parent, friend or companion who always only wants what is best for us—even when we are not sure ourselves. Perhaps the invitation for this week is to trust that our prayers will be responded to and, more importantly, to be mindful about what it is we truly seek.

## PRAY

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.