

## Pope's prayer intention for August

Evangelization: That families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly 'schools of true human growth'.

### 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 '[In the Lord I'll be ever thankful](#)' (Taizé) (AOV2 109, CWBII 522, GA 429).

### This week:

- 14 August: St Maximilian Mary Kolbe (Memorial)
- 15 August: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity and holy day of obligation)

### 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 said to his disciples: 'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?' The Lord replied, 'What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master's arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself, "My master is taking his time coming," and sets about beating the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful. The servant who knows what his master wants, but has not even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many strokes of the lash. The one who

did not know, but deserves to be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a great deal given him, a great deal will be demanded of him; when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him.'

—Luke 12:32-48

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:

'There is no need to be afraid'—how wonderful it is to hear these words! We are led in prayer after in the Communion Rite:

Deliver us, Lord, we prayer, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Perhaps this week we are encouraged to think about whether anything is preventing us from responding to God's call. Perhaps part of 'being dressed and ready for action' means letting go of some of our fears—our fears about the future, about whether we are worthy of being loved and of loving... of so many things.

May God save us from all distress.

### PRAY

Loving God  
Gift us with optimistic spirits  
calm our fears  
soothe any disquiet in our souls  
and enable us to see the blessings of our days  
in order that we may better respond to your call.  
Amen.