

Thursday Intercession

'May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.'

Having examined our own lives we are open to pray for others. We place them in your loving care, knowing your arms are always stretched out welcoming and inviting them to "Come"! Intercession is a way of loving others. We move from our own needs to those of others. By praying for them we are making a difference. Don't give up, keep at it. We are not alone in this prayer work. Jesus intercedes eternally with and for us all.

Prayer: God give me what you know I need, to love as you would have me love and to do what you would have me do.

Read Luke 18:1-8 Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.

Friday Trust

'Let us commit ourselves to him every morning, for the real God is to be trusted, and whatever happens to us-called, as it may be by others, failure, catastrophe, defeat-we shall know that eternal love still bears us on its bosom, and that we shall find our way home without regret.' LD Weatherhead
Prescription for Anxiety

Our intercession for others and petition for ourselves is founded on our trust in our God who always hears our prayers. Doubt often precedes trust. We know that God is ever-present though often he seems absent. The Collect for Ascension Day speaks of "surrendering our certainty to the darkness of faith in Jesus Christ".

Prayer:
Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger

Read Isaiah 12:2-6 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,

Saturday Praise

We praise you O God:we acclaim you as Lord. All creation worships you: the Father everlasting. Te Deum Laudamus

Prayer is our response as human beings to the eternal and unchanging love of God. We give praise to God for who he is himself. The Bible is packed with praise - the psalmist, the writers of the epistles and the writer of Revelation - all assure us that praise is the serious business of heaven.

Pray as you read: Psalm 103: 1-22

Praise the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, praise his holy name.
Praise the Lord, O my soul: and forget not all his benefits.
Who forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities.

Action:
Write a letter or an email or make a telephone call to a person who has been an encourager and inspirer for you in your prayer life.

MU PRAYER LEAFLET

MID-YEAR 2010



'Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies it remains a single grain but if it dies it bears much fruit'

July 2010

Dear Friends,

Mothers' Union around the world is a great powerhouse of prayer. A need in one part of the world is prayed for in many parts of the world. Our Wave of prayer, born in 1921, is a remarkable continuous link between us all. Members everywhere pray regularly for local and for global needs. The busier I become in my life the more I realize I **cannot not** set aside time to pray.

Prayer is inseparable from living. Private prayer draws us into a deeper intimacy with God.

Various people I have met at different times have inspired me by their prayerfulness.

Who are the ones who have travelled with you?

This leaflet explores the attitudes that prepare us for our private prayer. As we journey together we look towards Christ himself as our goal and our greatest model of prayer.

Peace and blessing, **Bronwyn**

SUNDAY Worship

'Earth's crammed with heaven, and every common bush afire with God. And only those who see take off their shoes;' Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Prayer begins in our worship of God. We are overwhelmed by the beauty of his holiness and his love for us. As Christians our prime calling is to worship God who made us and all of creation.

Prayer: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Read Exodus 3:1-6 God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

MONDAY Humility

'No spiritual house can stand for a moment except on the foundation of humility'. Bernard of Clairvaux

Humility is true knowledge and awareness of oneself as one really is. It is the foundation from which prayer can grow. Selfishness disappears and generosity of heart towards others begins to blossom.

Prayer: Lord, all that I have comes from you. Save me from pride and self-centredness.

Read Matthew 8:5-13 "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed.'

TUESDAY Confession

Authentic prayer changes us-unmasks us *Teresa of Avila*

We are always in need of an attitude of repentance. The astonishing gospel news is that we can **always** start again.

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me a sinner.

Read Luke 18:11-14 *The tax collector....was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'*

WEDNESDAY Gratitude

'Only he who gives thanks for little things receives the big things. We prevent God from giving us the great spiritual gifts he has in store for us, because we do not give thanks for daily gifts'. Dietrich Bonhoeffer 'Life Together'

Thank you for this day. Thank you for freedom. Thank you for rain to water the earth. Thank you for those who love me.

Living without being grateful assumes that we rely on ourselves. We can too easily forget the thread of God's grace through our lives. When we live with gratitude we realize to whom we are thankful. This is not a "Pollyanna" view of life which does not face the difficult times. It is when we have the deepest need that our trust in God is tested and we grow in the grace of gratitude.

Prayer: Gracious God, we humbly thank you for all the gifts you have given us. Above all we thank you for the hope of Resurrection in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Read Luke 17:11-19 *He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan.*