



AMDG  
13TH SUNDAY OF  
ORDINARY TIME  
1ST JULY 2018

**'Do not be afraid; only have faith!'**

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who through the grace of adoption  
chose us to be children of light,  
grant, we pray,  
that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error  
but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth.

This week's readings are full of encouragement. They urge us to live by faith even when we struggle to make sense of life (or, indeed, death). Though we may sometimes find it very challenging to entrust ourselves and others completely to God, ultimately this is what opens the way to new life in him.

The Wisdom author (*First Reading*) tells us that death – both physical and spiritual – results from Satan's envy. Death was never part of God's plan, for we are created for life, and in God's own likeness.

The *psalmist* rejoices that God has rescued him from sickness. We, too, are invited to give thanks, trusting in God's complete care and compassion for each of us. Even if our day ends in sadness, the promise of joy still dawns anew each morning.

St Paul encourages the Corinthians to model themselves on Jesus in their generosity and giving, for they themselves have been given so much. We also should try to keep this balance, trusting God as we consider other's needs alongside our own riches. (*Second Reading*)

The *Gospel* tells of two miracles: the raising of Jairus's daughter (which we pray today) and the healing of the woman with the haemorrhage. Both are people of great faith, whatever their fears; we see how God's healing, life-giving power is enabled by their trust.

This week, let us pray that God might increase our own faith each day, helping us to entrust ourselves to him more completely, even when we feel afraid or unsure.

## PSALM 29 (30)

*R./ I will praise you Lord, you have rescued me.*

**I** will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me  
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.  
O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead,  
restored me to life from those who sink into the grave.

Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him,  
give thanks to his holy name.  
His anger lasts but a moment; his favour through life.  
At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn.

The Lord listened and had pity.  
The Lord came to my help.  
For me you have changed my mourning into dancing,  
O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever.

As I settle to pray, I ask the Lord to help me enter into the spirit of this psalm:  
*I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.*

I read and reread the psalm slowly.

What do I feel as I read these words? I linger with the words or phrases that  
have struck me.

Jesus prayed this psalm. I think of his spirit of gratitude to his Father at all times.  
Perhaps I ask for the gift of constant gratitude.

I ponder also the mystery of Jesus's death and resurrection —  
you 'have raised my soul from the dead'.

Maybe I can remember times when I have been conscious of the Lord raising  
me in times of pain ... grief ... misfortune ... sorrow ... sin ...?

I speak to the Lord, remembering the good and the bad times ...  
the times he has 'listened and had pity';  
the times he has 'come to my help';  
the times he has filled me with joy.

He has been always with me and I give him thanks.

When I am ready, I slowly end my prayer in gratitude and trust.

*Glory be ...*

## GOSPEL MARK 5: 21–24; 35–43

**W**hen Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered round him and he stayed by the lakeside. Then one of the synagogue officials came up, Jairus by name, and seeing him, fell at his feet and pleaded with him earnestly, saying, ‘My little daughter is desperately sick. Do come and lay your hands on her to make her better and save her life.’ Jesus went with him and a large crowd followed him; they were pressing all round him. ...

Some people arrived from the house of the synagogue official to say, ‘Your daughter is dead: why put the Master to any further trouble?’ But Jesus had overheard this remark of theirs and he said to the official, ‘Do not be afraid; only have faith’. And he allowed no one to go with him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. So they came to the official’s house and Jesus noticed all the commotion, with people weeping and wailing unrestrainedly. He went in and said to them, ‘Why all this commotion and crying? The child is not dead, but asleep.’ But they laughed at him. So he turned them all out and, taking with him the child’s father and mother and his own companions, he went into the place where the child lay. And taking the child by the hand he said to her, ‘Talitha, kum!’ which means, ‘Little girl, I tell you to get up’. The little girl got up at once and began to walk about, for she was twelve years old. At this they were overcome with astonishment, and he ordered them strictly not to let anyone know about it, and told them to give her something to eat.

Conscious of the Lord’s loving presence with me, I take time to come to some inner stillness, perhaps focusing on my breathing for a while.

In time I turn slowly and prayerfully to the text, asking the Holy Spirit to help me enter this familiar scene, to visualise the surroundings.

Who am I? Jesus ... ? a disciple ... ? Jairus ... ? or simply myself?

I notice what most strikes me ... the sadness, the hopes ... the disbelief and cynicism ...? Or perhaps the faith, tenderness and concern ...?

Maybe a person or situation from my own life comes to mind.

Noticing how I feel, I bring all of this gently before the Lord, sharing from my heart, friend to friend.

If there is a grace I need to ask for, I do so with openness and trust.

Before I end my prayer, I may like to take a moment to pray for all those bowed down by sickness or grief, or for anyone struggling to have faith.

I finish with a slow sign of the cross.

## Here's a text if you've only got a minute ...

Death was not God's doing.

*First Reading*

At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn.

*Psalm*

Remember how generous the Lord Jesus was:  
he was rich, but he became poor for your sake.

*Second Reading*

'Do not be afraid; only have faith.'

*Gospel*

*This week's texts if you want to reflect further:*

*Wisdom 1: 13–15, 2: 23–4; Psalm 29 (30); 2 Corinthians 8: 7, 9, 13–15;*

*Mark 5: 21–43*



**'Talitha, cum'**



ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH  
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**JESUIT**  
Ministries



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