



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

Free us from sin and bring us the joy that lasts for ever.

Opening Prayer

Like a son comforted by his mother will I comfort you.

Isaiah 66: 13

Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer,

Nor withhold his love from me. *Psalms 65*

The harvest is rich but the labourers are few,

So ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.

Luke 10: 2

Peace to this house. *Luke 10: 6*

REFLECTIONS

What does the week hold for me, and how do I feel God may be calling me? And ... what do I want to ask of God for myself and others?



AMDG
14TH SUNDAY
ORDINARY TIME
YEAR C, 3 JULY 2016



OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray for greater willingness
to serve God and our fellow men and women.

Father, in the rising of your Son, death gives birth to new
life.

The sufferings he endured restored hope to a fallen world.

Let sin never ensnare us with empty promises of passing joy.

Make us one with you always,
so that our joy may be holy, and our love may give life.

As I find some time to pray how am I feeling? Rested? Stressed?
Content? Agitated? Eager to pray? Not sure? I tell the Lord.

Don't be in a rush to 'start praying'. I slowly relax realising that I am
very much in God's presence who accepts me just as I am.

I may like to look back over the past day or week noticing where I
have helped others and so served God. I give thanks to God ...

Slowly I read the prayer, phrase by phrase.

I let it 'speak' to me in God's time – not mine! There's no rush ...

Perhaps the prayer prompts me to ponder if I have gone after what I
now see to be transient, shallow. Perhaps I have failed to let God be at
the centre of my life?

Be slow to judge yourself. Over the course of the week ahead I may
find myself moved to ask God to show me what is of lasting value; and
to whom and when to show Christ's love.

As always, I end my prayer giving thanks to my God who loves me
unconditionally.

PART OF THE FIRST READING: ISAIAH 66: 10–14

‘Rejoice, Jerusalem, be glad for her, all you who love her!
Rejoice, rejoice for her, all you who mourned her ...

... For thus says the Lord: Now towards her *Jerusalem* I send flowing *peace*, like a river, and like a stream in spate the glory of the nations.

At her breast nurslings will be carried and fondled in her lap.
Like a son comforted by his mother will I comfort you.
And by Jerusalem you will be comforted.’

This passage from the last chapter of the Prophet Isaiah speaks of the restoration of Israel after the Exile in Babylon.

*Mourning is over; new life has arrived through the gift of God.
God is like a loving mother from whom peace, comfort and new life flows.*

I ask God’s Spirit to enlighten my mind and touch my heart as I reflect on the image of God as Mother with all those feminine qualities.

I recall and relive those times in my life where I have experienced God as mother: peace-bringer, comforter, listener, etc ...

I give thanks and ask for an ever deeper awareness that my peace and security lies in God alone ...

Be very happy to return to this piece of scripture time and again in the week.

PART OF THE GOSPEL LUKE 10: 1–9

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit.

He said to them, ‘The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.

Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, “*Peace to this house!*” And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house.

Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you.

Cure those who are sick, and say, “The kingdom of God is very near you.”

As Christians, we are to bring peace into people’s hearts; hearts so full of stress. Of course, first of all we need that peace and inner security within ourselves. It is a peace that a close following of Jesus can bring.

I quietly read this passage (perhaps several times).

I try to form a mental image of the disciples Jesus sent ahead of him: no purse, no haversack, no sandals, always on the road, facing dangers, announcing the Good News.

In what and in whom and how did they place their trust?

I continue to ponder the passage asking Jesus to give me that *desire* to labour *with* him in my world today.

I ask him to help me bring his peace to the ‘houses’ I visit; to the people I meet; to show me who are the people looking for meaning and help in life.

‘God has created me to do him some definite service.

He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another.’

Cardinal Newman