

Prayer for the Diocesan Vision

Spirit of God,
descend on me this day.
Grant me the Spirit of joy, to lift me,
the Spirit of hope to inspire me,
the Spirit of love to surround me and
the Spirit of truth to enlighten my path.

Holy Spirit,
I pray for a new outpouring of your grace,
so that I may grow in worship of your name
in love of you in my prayer
and in my actions towards others.

Come Holy Spirit into my life to guide me.
Strengthen and defend me,
so that I may be drawn ever closer to you.
Help me this day and always
to be a channel of grace
in all I say and do
and invite others into relationship with you.

Amen

Thought for the week 28th Sunday of the Year 10th October, 2021

If you visit Jerusalem you will at some point enter the Old City through the ancient Damascus Gate. It may not be as narrow as the eye of a needle, but it definitely presents issues for anyone trying to enter the city along with all their trappings of wealth – a train of camels and some goats, or a Harley Davidson.

For security reasons the gate was once extremely narrow, and highly problematic for a rich man and his retinue to navigate. Even now it is organised to make life as difficult as possible for the ostentatious, or unwary. Immediately on entry you have to do a sharp left turn, and then, again, a sharp right before reaching the relative spaciousness of the vegetable and fruit market. It's like an ultra-tight chicane designed to either slow you right down or knock you off course. As in Jesus' time it is still much easier to navigate the Old City with little, or nothing, to slow you down, complicate your journey, or offer any hostages to fortune.

You have to feel sorry for the rich young man – so eager, well meaning, admirable; and so wounded when he realises he is being asked to do the one thing he doesn't feel he can; his face falling. Mine would too.

'The word of God is something alive and active' says Paul. These aren't just words on a page. They are life itself. What a wonderful encouragement. And yet how challenging. The gospel really does read like a double-edged sword. First cutting one way – cutting the rich young man down to size. Then another – we mustn't worry *'everything is possible for God,'* and whatever sacrifices and effort we are able to make will be repaid a hundred times over.

On balance it seems everything is weighted in favour of a generous response, and of travelling light, however daunting this may, at first, appear.



Prayers Please

Please pray June Black who is in hospital

Please pray for Mary Haggar

Please pray for Jack Edwards

Please pray for Vivien Kear (Krissie's friend) who has a tumour on her right eye.

Please pray for Rita Lonsdale.

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry

Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has long covid.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter - in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 8 and has leukemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for children and the new school term.

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for all victims of the Coronavirus.



Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;

Vera Martin, Mrs F. Rodrigues, Andrew Selwood, Eileen Milne, Mary Andrews, Sylvia Adams, Stephen Boyle, Thomas Butler, Nigel Hester, Peter Holding, Molly Morgan, James Enright, Jane Raynard, Gregorio D'Silva, Rosy Maria Lucia D'Silva, Winifred Dougan, Eric Gillett, Pat Hurst Harris, Sandra.