

**Thought for the week**  
**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – 19th January 2020**

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**  
**18th – 25th January**

Just before setting out for the Garden of Gethsemane, where he would be arrested and taken for trial, Jesus prayed:

*“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”* John 17: 20-21.

Our world is in urgent need of receiving and acting on the teachings of Jesus so that it can know justice, integrity and peace, and so have a special care for the poor and marginalised. The apparent disunity amongst Christians must be a stumbling block for some in their journey to Christ. The Holy Spirit unites and brings peace, the devil divides and sows distrust.

We must not forget the great strides that have been made in understanding and respect over recent decades between the Catholic Church and other Christian communities. We are blessed that in our local area the Churches cooperate and give witness to Jesus together as best they can. Yet we know we still have a long way to go for Our Lord’s prayer to be fully realised.

Let us pray always, and this week in particular, for Christian Unity so that we can be better witnesses to the presence of God here and now.

This year, please make a special effort to come to Sunday’s Ecumenical Service for Christian Unity here at St Michael’s (6.30pm) so that we can pray for Christian unity alongside our local Christian sisters and brothers.

Deacon Brian