

Thought for the Week
20th October 2019
29th Sunday in Ordinary time

The parable of the widow and the unjust judge in this week's gospel (Luke 18:1-8) brings us back to the theme of prayer. This is the second of three parables on prayer that Luke records for us. The others are the man getting his neighbour out of bed for a loaf of bread (Luke 11:5-13) and the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:9-4). Each has a lesson about prayer:

Luke 11:5-13: Jesus tells us to approach the Father to ask, seek and knock for our needs, and in return, the Father will be abundant in his generosity in giving us the Holy Spirit. By giving us the Holy Spirit, he might not be giving us the things we ask for or think we need, but the one thing we do need.

Luke 18:1-8: We look around us and see injustice everywhere and it is usually the most vulnerable, the poorest, the marginalised that are most affected. Will things ever change? We must not give up hope but be strong in faith and persistent in our prayer so that Jesus will find faith on earth when he returns.

Luke 18:9-14: Our prayer will only be effective if we come before God with humility. He is the creator we the created. He is holy we are sinful. Who are we to judge others?

Prayer was an essential part of Jesus' life. On many occasions Jesus went off alone to a quiet place to pray. He did this to remain close to his father and so know his father's will. We are no different and need time to be alone and quiet before God. Not so much to talk, but to listen to him in the depths of our heart.

Many people, young and old, are rediscovering the power of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Just to be present during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is a prayer in itself. Yet, being still in the presence of our God in this special way opens our hearts and minds to listen to his voice. That voice will bring comfort, encouragement, guidance or whatever God knows we need at that moment.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on the first Monday of the month.

Deacon Brian