

**ADSUMUS, SANCTE SPIRITUS**  
(We stand before you, Holy Spirit)

We stand before you, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in your name.

With you alone to guide us,  
make yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path

Nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in you our unity

So that we may journey together to eternal life

And not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of you,  
who are at work in every place and time,

In the communion of the Father and the Son,  
Forever and ever. Amen.

This prayer has been used at Councils, Synods and other Church gathering for  
hundreds of years including every session of the 2nd Vatican Council.  
It is attributed to St Isidore of Seville (560-636 AD).

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216

**Thought for the week**  
**7th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**20th February 2022**

One has to wonder what the crowd thought when Jesus said to them, *“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you.....,”* and so on. Did the crowds begin to thin? Did they think this was a ridiculous and unjust teaching?

We know Jesus practiced what he preached. He did not retaliate when he was mocked and he forgave those who killed him. Yet it is no easier for us as we hear those same words addressed to us as followers of Jesus. We can respond to Jesus’ commands to feed the hungry, cloth the naked etc, but it’s not quite so easy to love those who hate us. Yet, it is when we are *‘Compassionate as our Father is compassionate’* in hostile circumstances that mark us out as true followers of Jesus.

We must use the laws of the land to protect people, especially the most vulnerable, from physical and emotional abuse. But when we are wounded through gossip, rumours, lies and spite, or our pride is hurt, how do we respond? In kind or with compassion? We are faced with two options: God’s way as shown by Jesus, leading to joy, peace and life; or the world’s way leading to misery, bitterness and death.

It is not easy to follow God’s way. Yet Jesus hasn’t left us to get on with it as best we can, He offers himself to us in the Eucharist so that we might become what we receive. Let us take and receive him with grateful and penitent hearts, asking to be healed from the hurts we have received in the past so that in the future we can respond with compassion and forgiveness. The way we treat others will be the way we are treated ourselves.

*“Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate.”* (Luke 6: 36)

Deacon Brian



**We ask you to please pray for the following people who continue to ask for your prayers;**

Please pray for Isobel Messenger (Vera Bird's great granddaughter) that she may be able to have an operation to improve her hearing.

Please pray for Simon Keen who is very poorly

Please Pray for Delia Hoban who is in hospital

Please pray for Beth Selwood

Please pray for Mary Haggar

Please pray for Vivien Kear (Krissie's friend) who has cancer

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 9 and has leukemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for the children and teachers of the Parish

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;**

Michael Coulehan, Jimmy Thompson, Mary Ann Kennedy, Edward Lonsdale, Kevin Watters, Lazard Custodio Joanes, Mrs Mee, Mrs Maria Motyka, Una Cottrell, Nancy Iwasyk, Nancy Evach and Bazie, Father Robert O.F.M.