

Thought for the Week
22nd September 2019
25th Sunday in Ordinary time

There should be prayers offered for everyone to God, who wants everyone to be saved.

In my preparation for writing “the thought”, I always spend some time contemplating, of course, the readings for the weekend concerned; this time, I was immediately struck by the instruction in St Paul’s letter to Timothy:

“...first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone”

In the reading there is no secondly or thirdly following first of all, which may well indicate that offering prayers for everyone is our first duty.

My initial reflection was on how I have been carried on a wave of prayer over the past couple of years - when I mentioned this to a fellow parishioner recently, she remarked, “*We all are, Mary - all of us!*” And how right she is too! The petitions and intercessions made on my behalf helped me remain positive even during a setback and now I am giving thanks for a successful outcome.

The instruction to pray especially for kings and others in authority was the second aspect to strike me - how can we not pray for our political leaders in their decision making at this time? Whatever our political standpoint, we must pray - lift up our “*hands reverently in prayer with no anger or argument.*”

Praying for everyone, no matter their faith or whether we ourselves will suffer under their rule is a hallmark of Christianity. It is easy to pray for loved ones, but it should not end there.

Pray for those with whom we have conflict, those who annoy us and those who seem to be against us and that we may be able to live in peace.

Mary