

‘INCLUSIVE IN PRAYER’
21 October 2018 - 29th Sunday Ordinary Time

GOSPEL OF MARK 10:35-45

ASKING GOD FOR THE SPECIAL FAVOUR

*‘James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him,
“Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.”*

And he said to them,

“What is it you want me to do for you?”

*And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand
and one at your left, in your glory.” ‘*

They don’t ask which one of them would sit on the right hand.

Their request is inclusive of themselves but exclusive of everyone else.

WHAT ABOUT THEIR PARENTS, THEIR COUSINS, THEIR NEIGHBOURS?

WE CAN BE GENEROUS IN OUR INNER CIRCLES, BUT WHAT ABOUT OTHERS?

ARE WE LIKE THAT IN PRAYER?

DO OUR PRAYER INTENTIONS EXCLUDE OTHERS?

ARE WE SELFISH IN OUR PRAYERS?

It is wonderful to wish to be the presence of Jesus forever,

but our prayer must be inclusive of others, and their sharing in the presence of Jesus.

Especially the marginalized who are left out of so much in life.

Let us pause and remember some of our recent requests to God.

WERE THESE PRAYERS INCLUSIVE OF OTHERS OR EXCLUSIVE OF OTHERS?

We are called to share our gifts.

DO WE SHARE IN OUR PRAYER?

DO WE REALLY KNOW WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR?

‘But Jesus said to them,

“You do not know what you are asking.

Are you able to drink the cup that I drink,

or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” ‘

DO WE KNOW DEEP WITHIN OURSELVES WHAT WE REALLY WANT IN LIFE?

DO WE REALLY KNOW DEEP WITHIN OURSELVES WHAT WE SEEK FROM OTHERS?

HOW IS IT THAT JAMES AND JOHN DID NOT KNOW WHAT THEY WERE ASKING FOR?

They want to share the same favour as brothers.

James and John are so focused on their request, that

they do not think to ask God what sharing the cup means.

And not asking what this baptism will be.

ARE WE LIKE THAT AT TIMES IN OUR PRAYER?

Forgetting to ask God what granting our prayer would actually entail.
Forgetting to ask God in what way God would invite us to follow.

WHAT ARE OUR MOTIVES WHEN WE ASK GOD FOR OURSELVES?

'They replied, "We are able."'

They certainly are keen for this favour.
They haven't asked what it means to drink the cup of Jesus
and to go through the coming baptism.
A baptism of suffering and death before resurrection.

CARRYING THE CROSS

*'Then Jesus said to them,
"The cup that I drink you will drink;
and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized;
but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant,
but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."'*

James and John will drink the cup.
James will be martyred years later.
We are all asked to carry the cross as disciples.

WHAT OTHERS THINK

'When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John.'

James and John are at a key moment in their lives.
They are to learn that in serving Jesus, they are called to be inclusive.
Yet the other ten who have been excluded, now get angry with them.

WE ARE SERVANTS

*'So Jesus called them and said to them,
"You know that among the Gentiles
those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them,
and their great ones are tyrants over them.
But it is not so among you;
but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant,
and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.
For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life a ransom for many."'*

Key to the earlier exclusive request by James and John,
is to convert our thought patterns, our lifestyles, our actions, our prayer

- not to a system of privilege and power and supposed superiority,
- but to the humble love of Jesus who came to serve.

We bring our hearts to Jesus in prayer when we make a request to God.
We bring to Jesus our humble hearts and a genuine desire to serve.
To follow the example of Jesus.
To reach out to share the Good News and to share ourselves.

6PM MASS AND THE DROUGHT

Last night at 6pm, we heard about our friends in Blackall Tambo Parish, and ways we can help. Sharyn also gave us an update on varying light rainfall, recently in the district, and the need for 3 years of good rain for recovery on the properties. Our special intention last night was for our brothers and sisters there. But our prayer was also for all people suffering from drought at present. The call to be inclusive.

7.30AM MASS AND THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Earlier this morning we prayed this following prayer, written for our Mass.

Prayer for Those Who Seek Healing

We pray to You O Loving God,
for all those who are ill in our parish,
for the sick in our families wherever they are,
for people anywhere in the world who are sick
and for those who have no one praying for them.
We pray for those in palliative care in their homes and their carers,
and at aged care homes and hospitals and their staff.

We pray to You O Loving God,
for those undergoing operations and procedures,
for mothers and unborn children,
for those injured at work or elsewhere,
and for those who have been abused.

We pray to You O Loving God,
for sick children and youth who are supported in their illness
and for sick children and youth who have been abandoned by their families.
We pray for health professionals in their ministry.
We pray for our communities that they give priority to the sick and injured
as funding resource allocation decisions are made.

We pray to You O Loving God for medical researchers
that You may inspire new insights in their work.
We pray for the communities isolated by distance from health care,
for the Flying Doctor Service in our country,
and those needing medical assistance in war-torn nations today.
We pray for those who seek healing in physical, psychological and spiritual issues.

And we pray to You O Loving God

that we may grow in our spirituality of healing and care.
Inspired by the healing ministry of Jesus in the Gospels,
may we work with the Risen Jesus today in our healing ministries
and may we grow as healing communities of faith.
We thank you for your healings recently.
Called to be loving and humble servants,
we pray to You O Loving God for your healing.

This communal prayer began by praying for one person in our community, who is ill, and extending the prayer to others.
Each of us are invited to pray this week for someone we know, and, prompted by the Spirit, to extend that prayer to others.
As a community we add our own individual prayers this week.
Let us be inclusive in our prayer.

After Communion Sharyn, shared with the community about Blackall / Tambo Parish.

9AM MASS AND WHO WE ARE

This Mass has a special focus on some of the many cultures that are a part of our parish and who we are.

We begin as usual, with Acknowledgement of **Turrbul Country** and Elders past, present and emerging.

The Entrance Procession includes a lei for the Word of God, and symbols of faith and culture from **Malta**.

The Sign of the Cross is in Tetum.
The Opening Greeting is in Bahasa Indonesia.

After reflecting on the Gospel, we pray for those who are **ill**, including those we know for the **Synod of Youth**, and for our youth, for the consultation process for the **Plenary Council**, for the children who recently received the **Sacrament of Confirmation**, for those experiencing severe **drought** including **Blackall/Tambo Parish**, for **those in need**, including **South Sudan**.

We remember those who have **recently died**.
We pray for the peoples from each **Continent** on our Planet and for the peoples of the **islands of the world**.
We pray in silence for **those who have no one to pray for them** and ask God to hear our prayer for them.

We remember that in all we do, we pray for others.

The Procession of the Gifts is in traditional **Samoan** tradition.

At the Final Blessing, those in cultural dress from the **Nineveh Plains of northern Iraq** will gather in prayer for the blessing.

In the Recessional Procession, two members of our parish from **Ghana** will lead the traditional dance to traditional music.

In early November, our parish church will be the venue for Mass with the **Syro-Malabar** community on the north side of Brisbane.

In mid-December, the members of our parish community from the **Philippines** will host a Simbang Gabi Mass.

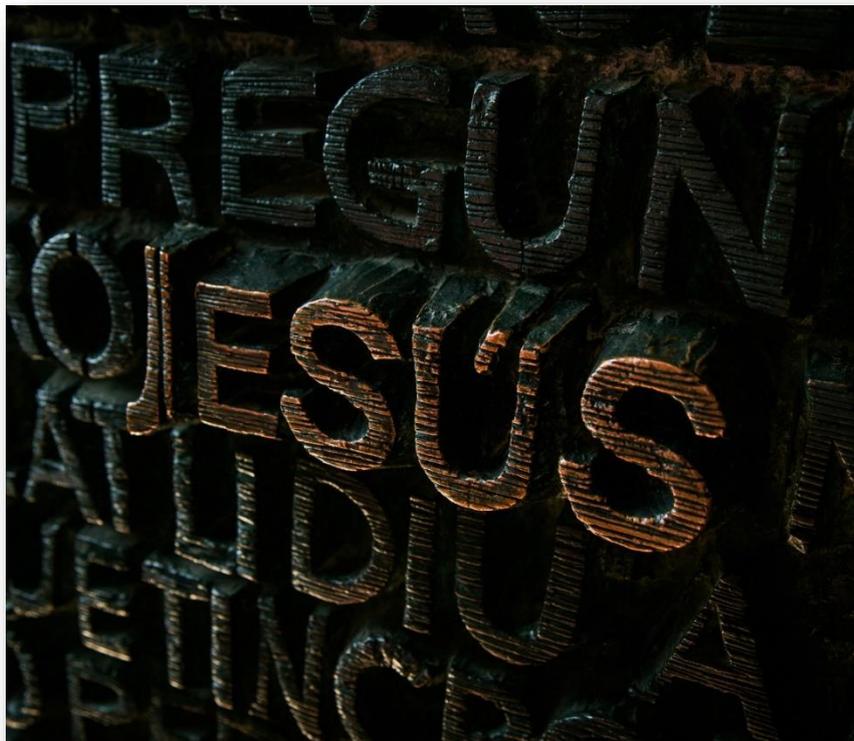
In our Eucharist, we are thankful to God.

Let us pray.

Fr. Gerry

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/102118.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook21102018>]



IN OUR EUCHARIST,
WE ARE THANKFUL TO GOD.