

PRAY IN LOVE

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER – 15 MAY 2022



INVITATION

Sometimes people express their frustration about their prayer. I find it helpful to invite them to ponder how they pray in love.

A NOVENA PRAYER

Novenas can include 9 day and 5 day prayer periods.

Since Friday I've been on a five-day novena for a special prayer intention for someone in need.

Friday 13th May was the *Feast of Our Lady of Fatima*.

Through the grace of God, I've asked the special intercession of Mary.

In her earthly life, she pondered everything in her heart and placed them before God.

I now place these five days of prayer before her, asking her to place this sacred time before our loving God.

The prayer time fits into the daily pattern.

For me, that includes taking a break six times a day so that I can have the two types of eye drops after recent surgery.

This becomes part of my prayer ritual.

Each day I can add prayer requests for that particular day.

Yesterday we celebrated the baptisms of children from six families in the morning.

So I could add them to the Saturday prayer moments.

May God bless the six children now baptised –

Alexander, Amelia, Fletcher, Freddy, Jack and Lily.

GODPARENTS – PRAYING IN LOVE

During our parish baptisms, the Godparents are invited to pray for their Godchildren, at least once a day, every day for the rest of the lives.

It might be during the morning or afternoon or evening.

Once they are in a pattern of doing this, they inform the parents of the child.

Once the child is old enough to understand, they inform their Godchild that they *pray daily for him or her in love*.

DAILY PRAYER

Wherever we are and whatever we do, we can *pray in love*, including:

- for our own needs and family and community
- for people we meet and for their needs,
- for people with whom we work,
- for places in great need such as Ukraine and Myanmar
- for so many justice and reconciliation needs
- for the earth, our common home and our responsibilities to it
- for healing
- for short or medium or long-term needs
- in stillness with God
- in thanksgiving and gratitude to God

We pray at the beginning and end of our day,

We pray quietly to begin our work and at its end, and for inspiration in helping each person.

We pray not only in service of others, but also because, as Christians, *we are called to love*.

Each one of us is a person of dignity created by God.

And each person can pray for others.

As we grow in the love of God,

we become more aware of our need of prayer.

We **begin each day**, dedicating it to God in all we experience and do.

During the day, with its challenges at work and encounters,

we ask for God's help and direction.

We realise more and more that only God has a full overview of our day.

Near the end of the day, we review our day in prayer. Sometimes this is called an examen.

We also might pray for whoever continues the work while we rest and sleep.

We may have aided someone in pain and explored with them, possible options for assistance.

When they left us or we move on to someone else, who continues to reach out to them?

We pray for them.

GOSPEL OF JOHN 13:31-35

In today's Gospel, Jesus fondly calls us *'little children'*.
We are part of God's family.
The love of God moves us, changes us.
People can see how we love one another. It is visible.

As today's passage says:

*'Little children, I am with you only a little longer.
You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you,
"Where I am going, you cannot come."
I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.'*

GUIDED BY SAINT PAUL - WE PRAY IN LOVE

But do we ever take to time to ponder the utter depth of God's love?
Saint Paul did.

In Romans Chapter 8 he assures us that nothing can separate us from God's love.

When we are tempted by ego and power, we remember his words -
'Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up'. (1 Corinthians 8:1)

Sometimes people ask how could love be the foundation of our prayer?
We pray in love.

St Paul's helps us to understand this love in his First Letter to the Corinthians when he says,
*'Love is patient; love is kind;
love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.
It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.
It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.
Love never ends.'*

This is a wonderful text to pray, **before** we begin a special prayer intention.

St Paul also tells us that *'God's love has been poured into our hearts'* (Romans 5:5)
To the Philippian Christian community he asked that
'your love may overflow more and more'. (Philippians 1:9)

In our prayer this week, may we be open to God's love **poured** into our hearts.

In our lives this week, may our love **overflow**.

During these five days of prayer, I also pray for our community.

Thank you to those already who have asked for particular prayers for themselves at this time.

Let us pray.

Father Gerry

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/051522.cfm>

SAINT PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS

Pray in Love

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love is not envious or boastful
or arrogant or rude.**

**It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice in wrongdoing,
but rejoices in the truth.**

**It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.**

Love never ends.



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