

## PRAYER: HOLDING US UP LIKE A COLUMN

17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME – 24 JULY 2022

### CLINT & BISHOP KEN ON SATURDAY EVENING

Thank you to Bishop Ken who led us in Eucharist at Saturday evening Mass. He prayed over Clint McGoldrick and instituted Clint as an *Acolyte*. Congratulations to Clint.

Having received *Lector*, *Candidacy* and *Acolyte*, he will now write to Archbishop Mark to formally request Ordination as a *Permanent Deacon* in the future. We continue to keep Clint and his family in prayer.

### CHILDREN'S MASS BOOK

Congratulations to the children who receive their Mass books this weekend and over the next two weekends. They are preparing for their *First Eucharist* over three weekends in August. We continue to pray for them and for their families.

### SPECIAL INTENTIONS

This weekend we celebrate *Bible Sunday*. And we give thanks for our [\*Grandparents and Elders\*](#) during the Prayers of the Faithful.

### THREEFOLD CONNECTION OF PRAYER & COMPASSION

Last week we focused on the inclusive relationship between three passages in Luke's Gospel

- 10:25-37. The *Parable of the Good Samaritan* calls us to be active, serving, and full of compassion. It is a parable of loving service to our neighbour.
- 10:38-42 With the meeting of *Jesus with Mary and Martha* at their house, we are taught that we need time to listen at the feet of Jesus. We all need to be renewed through prayer. That's why we are called to work with God, not for God
- 11:1-4 After placing both experiences together, loving action and loving attentive listening, the **disciples wanted Jesus to teach them how to pray.**

### COLUMNS

Some years ago I visited Turkey with an interfaith delegation. Special memories included Gallipoli, Troy, Ephesus, Nicaea and Istanbul. We had several meetings with education, media and religious leaders. The visit to Hagia Sofia was incredible. As well as its religious history, it is well known for its religious mosaics and for its many, many marble columns and red porphyry columns.

One of my personal symbols of prayer is a column holding me up. God is my foundation. Prayer and the Scriptures and Sacraments hold me together as columns. They sustain me daily.

Some well-known styles of columns which show amazing human creativity, include Doric, Tuscan, Ionic, Corinthian, Composite, and Solomonic columns.

As we turn to nature, we see columns created millions of years ago. The Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland is famous for over 40,000 columns of basalt. In Australia we have the impressive columns at Fingal in northern NSW, and its echidna Dreaming.

And the "organ pipes" of Mount Beerwah on the Sunshine Coast and its women's Dreaming. An old photo over 90 years ago shows the Brisbane Tuff columns at Windsor.

Yet prayer is different again as it is a living and changing column that sustains me. It is a way of praying.

### LUKE'S VERSION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer, the '*Our Father*' is a way of praying, not just a set prayer. We bring our praise of God, we thank our God, We pray for the reign (kingdom) of God in our lives. We place our petitions, our need for the daily bread, our need to forgive others, our need for God to protect us from evil.

Matthew's version is familiar to us because it is closest to the form we pray at Mass, in the rosary, in communal prayer, in private prayer. Luke's version is shorter and refers to daily prayer.

Let us pray Luke's version now.

*'Father, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Give us each day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.  
And do not bring us to the time of trial.'*

Following these three passages in Luke's Gospel, Jesus taught the disciples to persevere, and to ask, to search and to knock. Searching and knocking suggest time and energy.

*'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.  
For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.'*

### PLENARY

Over the last four years we have prayed for the Plenary process. And we have asked, searched and knocked, as we have tried to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us. Links to the Decrees at the end of the Plenary are provided below.

Last Sunday at 7.30am Mass, Toni Janke shared with us about what it was like to be a delegate, the motions that passed, and the presence of the Holy Spirit working among them, especially after the pain and hurt on the Wednesday morning.

According to Luke's Gospel, we pray daily.  
In our prayer, we find that our conversion is lifelong.  
May we grow in our love of God.

Let us pray.

Father Gerry

Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/072422.cfm>



# Prayer: Holding us up like a Column

Father Gerry Hefferan

Hagia Sophia - red porphyry column

CC Attribution Copyright © 2017 | Hagia Sophia Research Team <https://hagiasophiaturkey.com/>

## PLENARY COUNCIL DECREES

Links to Decrees - One to Ten - are provided below.

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FINAL-Decree-1-Reconciliation-Healing-Wounds-Receiving-Gifts.pdf>

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FINAL-Decree-2-Choosing-Repentance-Seeking-Healing.pdf>

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FINAL-Decree-3-Called-by-Christ-Sent-Forth-as-Mission-Disciples.pdf>

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FINAL-Decree-4-Witnessing-to-the-Equal-Dignity-of-Women-and-Men.pdf>

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FINAL-Decree-5-Communion-in-Grace-Sacrament-to-the-World.pdf>

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FINAL-Decree-6-Formation-and-Leadership-for-Mission-and-Ministry.pdf>

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FINAL-Decree-7-At-the-Service-of-Communion-Participation-and-Mission-Governance.pdf>

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FINAL-Decree-8-Integral-Ecology-and-Conversion-for-the-Sake-of-Our-Common-Home.pdf>

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FINAL-Decree-9-The-Implementation-Phase-of-the-Fifth-Plenary-Council.pdf>

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/FINAL-Decree-10-The-Decrees-of-the-Fourth-Plenary-Council-of-Australia.pdf>