

'WE PRAY IN LOVE FOR OTHERS WHEREVER WE ARE'

5th Sunday of Easter – 19th May 2019

PEOPLE WHO PRAY

A nurse writing up the paperwork at the end of shift,
with a quiet prayer for each of the people she or he has nursed during that shift.

A train driver saying a prayer for safety at the start of shift, and
saying a prayer at end of shift, for the people who travelled in that train today.

A person who sends out the bills to people,
praying for each one who will receive a bill.

A librarian praying for all the people served and helped during the day.

A factory worker praying at end of shift for all the people in that section,
and praying for the shift workers who now take over.

A labourer working on the roads, praying for safety for everyone this day.

A plumber praying for all who benefitted from the jobs today.

A mechanic saying a prayer for the owner of the vehicle being serviced.

And the list goes.

Wherever we are and whatever work we do,
we can pray

- for people we meet and for their needs,
- and for people with whom we work,
- and for people who take over from us.

We pray quietly at the beginning and end of our work,
and for inspiration to helping each person.

God hears our prayer.

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

And the list of people who can pray for others continues:

A farmer. A public servant. A grazier.

A panel beater. A lawyer. A secretary.

A teacher. A bus driver. An accountant.

A checkout operator. A bank teller. A social worker.

A police officer. A designer. An IT specialist.

A reporter. A cleaner. A landscaper.

A doctor, an ambulance officer,

A fire brigade officer, a petrol station attendant.

A gardener. An electrician. A case worker.
A salesperson. A chef. An orderly. A postal delivery person.
A sanitation worker. A tourist operator.
A ticket seller. A writer. A priest.
A clerk. A manager. A personal assistant.
A hair-dresser. A pilot. A steward or stewardess.
A truck driver. A plant operator. An office worker.
And so many, many more working lives.
And each is a person of dignity created by God.
And each person can pray for others.

If we do paid work, or volunteer our services,
there are people that we can pray for.
If we are studying or teaching or researching,
there are people that we can pray for.
If we are on holidays or going shopping
there are people that we can pray for.

Let us pause and list who could pray for.
(Pause)

EACH DAY

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, we ask for God's help and direction.
We realize more and more that only God has a full overview.
Near the end of the day, we pray for whoever continues the work while we rest and sleep.

We may have been there for someone in pain and explored 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 them 'little children'.
We are part of God's family.
Not a number.
The love of God moves us, changes us.
Love in action is visible.
People can see how we love one another.
It is visible.

*'When he had gone out, Jesus said,
**'Now the Son of Man has been glorified,
and God has been glorified in him.
If God has been glorified in him,
God will also glorify him in himself***

and will glorify him at once.

*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.’*

SOME OTHER INSIGHTS LIVING OUT GOD’S LOVE IN OUR LIVES

What else can we learn about his love?

Let us turn back to the New Testament.

When we are miserly with time and possessions, we remember

Romans 5:5 *‘God’s love has been poured into our hearts’*

Philippians 1:9 *‘your love may overflow more and more’*

In Romans 8 we are assured that **nothing can separate us from God’s love.**

The passage asks with a question

Romans 8:35 *‘who will separate us from the love of God?’*

And assures us that nothing can separate us.

When we are tempted to be mean or spiteful, we remember

Romans 13:10 *‘Love does no wrong to a neighbour’.*

When we struggle with others in community, we remember

Colossians 2:2 *‘to be encouraged and united in love’.*

Ephesians 4:2 *‘bearing with one another in love’*

When we get carried away by ego and power, we remember

1 Corinthians 8:1 *‘Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up’*

May we pray that God clothes us in love.

Colossians 3:14 *‘Above all, clothe yourselves in love’*

Paul’s first Letter to the Corinthians 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.’*

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Today the Sri Lankan members of our parish community share their faith and culture with us in symbol, song and prayer. And our wider community expresses its solidarity with them on this one month anniversary of the tragic loss of life at the Easter Sunday bombings.

We now invite representatives of the school communities of St Joseph's Primary, St John Fisher College and St Patrick's College Shorncliffe to come forward in prayerful solidarity.

Let us pray.

Fr. Gerry

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/190519.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook19052019>]

HOMILY~WE PRAY IN LOVE FOR OTHERS WHEREVER WE ARE



GOSPEL OF JOHN 13:34

**Love one another
as I have loved you**

@stjosephandstanthony