



Martin Bird's Prayers for Monday 22nd to Sunday 28th February 2021

Monday

Reading – Galatians Chapter 3, verses 26 to 29

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Lord God, thank you that through Jesus we can call ourselves your children. May we live our lives as your children in all that we do, say and are. Help us to remember the second part of today's reading, that we are all one in Christ, and help us to love all people because that are your children just as we are. In your name we pray, Amen

Tuesday (Polycarp)

Reading – Matthew 6, verses 7 to 15

And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

“This, then, is how you should pray:

**“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’**

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving us the way to pray. We ask today that your kingdom would indeed come to this earth at this time when the whole world so needs to know you.

We ask today that your will be done by all in government as they continue to work out how to manage this current situation, and by all of us as we too try to do what is right. May you give us our daily bread – the bread of Jesus that will never leave us hungry. And we ask today to help us forgive those who have sinned against us just as we ask you, our God and Father, to forgive us our sins. Deliver us from Satan into our heavenly father's loving arms. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever, Amen

Wednesday (Ember Day)

Reading – Galatians Chapter 5, verse 1

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Lord Jesus, thank you so much for setting us free from the yoke of slavery to sin. May we live as free people and help more and more people to be free in you too. Help us to steer clear of sin, and live in you, throughout our lives. In your name, Amen

Thursday

Reading – Matthew Chapter 7, verses 7 to 12

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Lord Jesus, may we always strive to do what you ask of us here and do to others what we would have them do to us. Help us to be unselfish in all we do, knowing that you and your Father in heaven are unselfish to us. We can be sure of this when we see you on the cross dying in a horrific way just to save us, and in the fact that God sent you to us because he loved us so much. May we always come to you in our lives, Lord Jesus, and ask you for what we need, knowing that it will be given to us. Help us continue to seek you in our lives knowing that, by doing so, we can and will find you. Thank you Lord Jesus, that you are the beginning and the end, the alpha and the omega, and are always there for us. Amen

Friday (Ember Day)

Reading – Galatians Chapter 5, verses 22 to 25

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Lord Jesus Christ, we belong to you. May we live as your people and truly bear the fruit of the Spirit. May we show love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control in all that we do and come to you afresh today and always.

Amen

Saturday (George Herbert)

Reading – John Chapter 6, verses 27 to 40

“Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

“Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

Lord Jesus, may we always do the work of God and believe in you. May we know in our hearts and minds the truth that you tell us, that you are the bread of life. May we always believe in you and come to you in our lives so that we too can have the eternal life that you promise and so we can help others come to you and have that eternal life too. Amen

2nd Sunday of Lent

Reading – Hebrews Chapter 11, verses 1 to 3

Now faith is being sure in what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Lord God, help us always to keep and strengthen our faith in you. Help us to be sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. As Jesus said to Thomas, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have believed” – help us to be so blessed as we haven’t seen your Son in the flesh, but yet we do believe in Him and in you. Amen